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24 March 1981

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

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USSR ECONOMIC TIES WITH LATIN AMERICA REVIEWED

Moscow INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS in English No 1, Jan 81 pp 100-107

[Article by N. Zinovyev]

[Text]

In its foreign economic policy, the Soviet Union has always been guided by the most important principle — that of expanding mutually beneficial trade relations with all countries regardless of their social system. Leonid Brezhnev said: "We in the Soviet Union have always considered equitable and free international trade not only as a good means for the trading sides of meeting their material needs, but what is more important, as a powerful factor for strengthening peace and good relations between peoples".

The Soviet Union has always opposed overt or covert diktat and any discrimination in foreign trade. The country's invariable principle has been that all the obligations following from the trade agreements it has signed should be observed in good faith. Through its foreign trade policy it seeks to promote economic progress in developing countries. All these principles fully apply to trade with Latin America.

The Soviet Union first established trade links with Latin America before the Second World War. However, the joint-stock company Yuzhamtorg some of whose shares were held by the Soviet foreign trade organisations had to be closed in 1935 when reactionary circles on that continent obstructed its operations, bringing Soviet trade with Latin America virtually to a standstill.

After the Second World War, the situation in Latin America became more favourable for its countries to start trade with the USSR and other socialist countries, since the continent was going through serious socio-political changes, and it was increasingly realised in Latin America that it was necessary to slacken dependence on the developed capitalist countries. However, a real change for more active trade with the USSR had not occurred until the early 1970s when it was assisted by the emerging process of detente. The volume of this trade grew rapidly, and the Soviet Union was expanding the number of its trading partners in Latin American countries.

However, the USSR and Latin American countries have not yet established comprehensive and stable trade relations. (This article does not discuss the large-scale trade and economic relations with the Republic of Cuba). The existing trade links are still at the initial stage, and it will take time before mutually beneficial patterns of trade are established, consumers find out more about new products, and wider contacts are set up between business communities.

It should also be borne in mind that the volume and the structure of trade are not the only factors determining its influence on the economic

development of Latin American countries. Trading with the Soviet Union makes it possible for them to reduce the crude pressure exerted by the imperialist powers. It also curtails the opportunities for these powers to impose their terms in trade with Latin America.

In other words, the development of this trade reflects the objective necessities arising from the international division of labour, and also increases the range of methods at the disposal of Latin American countries in strengthening their economic independence.

By the end of 1980, the USSR was trading with 25 countries in Latin America. It had inter-governmental agreements with Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Guyana, Grenada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, El Salvador, Ecuador, Uruguay and Jamaica. Under these agreements, each side is granted most-favoured-nation treatment in trade, with payments being made in freely convertible currencies. The sides also proceed from world prices in their trade and have regular discussions on the progress of their trade at meetings of their joint commissions, etc.

With eleven Latin American countries, the Soviet Union has agreements to deliver them machines and equipment on favourable terms. These goods are to be paid for in installments spread over a period of up to 10 years at 4.5 to 5 per cent yearly interest, which is much less than interest rates charged by Western firms. The Soviet Union undertakes to spend all it receives from these sales to buy Latin American goods including manufactures and semi-finished products. This is particularly important to our Latin American partners with their huge balance of payments deficits and considerable expenditure of foreign currencies to pay off their debts to industrially developed nations.

With some countries, including Argentina and Colombia, the Soviet Union has signed new agreements for cooperation involving pre-investment studies for projects and technological processes, the drafting of blueprints, transfer of technology, exchange of know-how, training of specialists and technicians, etc. There are also prospects for technical cooperation with Mexico, Brazil, Peru, Venezuela, Nicaragua and a number of other countries.

The development of trade and economic relations between the USSR and Latin American countries has led to the creation of joint inter-governmental commissions. These agencies are to review progress in business relations, discuss the state of trade, its prospects, and its financing, as well as the improvement of conditions for commerce, progress on major projects and exchange of information about the existing possibilities and prospects for further cooperation.

Particularly productive are the joint Soviet-Brazilian and the Soviet-Argentinean commissions, which have several achievements to their credit. The Soviet-Brazilian Commission, for instance, has helped the two countries to conclude negotiations on the delivery of Soviet turbines and generators and to sign a new agreement on purchases by Brazil of Soviet machines and equipment on an installment basis, and on purchases by Soviet foreign trade organisations of non-traditional Brazilian exports like footwear and leather clothes.

The Joint Soviet-Argentinean Commission has been instrumental in the conclusion of contracts for power engineering technology to be bought by Argentina, and for Soviet purchases of Argentinian goods.

When members of the Soviet-Colombian Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation and of the Soviet-Mexican Commission on Trade met last autumn, they agreed on new

areas of cooperation. They also made considerable progress, particularly in issues linked with the construction of major projects.

Within the whole spectrum of measures taken to promote trade between the USSR and Latin America, of greatest importance have been the agreements reached between the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Chambers of Commerce in some Latin American countries including Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Colombia and Mexico. Other events which have helped to expand trade are regular exhibitions of Soviet goods in Latin American countries and, of late, exhibitions arranged by some Latin American countries in the USSR. In 1980, Soviet foreign trade organisations brought their wares to the International Fair in Bogota. Early in 1981, the Soviet Union will hold its National Exhibition in Mexico.

Statistics on foreign trade published in the USSR and Latin America show that the trade turnover between these countries has risen appreciably. In 1975 it was five times higher than in the prewar years and exceeded that between 1945 and 1970. Its peak so far was between 1976 and 1980 when 5.5 thousand million rubles' worth of goods was sold and bought as against 2.7 thousand million in the previous five-year period.

Throughout the 1970s, the Soviet trade with Latin America increased more than tenfold. Estimates for 1980 put this trade at 1.5 thousand million rubles, or \$2 thousand million. Yet, if we view these achievements against the background of overall Soviet or Latin American foreign trade, they will appear very modest. In 1979, Latin America accounted for less than one per cent of all the Soviet foreign trade and nearly 6.5 per cent of its trade with the developing countries. The Soviet Union accounted for 1.7 per cent of the foreign trade of Latin America in 1980. Still, the Soviet Union and its Latin American partners can only be pleased that overall trade between the USSR and Latin America is steadily growing, even though this growth may vary from one year to the next.

Another positive development is that the USSR and Latin America are constantly diversifying their trade, which is gradually leading to the creation of a solid basis for its growth which will be less and less dependent on market fluctuations or occasional demand for some articles.

Soviet industrial exports to Latin America include equipment for power generation and mining, oil drilling machines, forging, pressing and other equipment, metal-cutting tools, tractors, excavators, compressors, cars, lorries, etc. Over the past few years, the USSR has sold Latin American countries mechanical engineering products worth some 300 million rubles. These include over 10,000 cars, 1,200 lorries, upwards of 8,000 tractors, nearly 3,000 machine tools, as well as generators and turbines for five power projects rated at a total of 4.4 million kilowatts.

The USSR sells these countries chemicals, fertilisers, medicines and medical preparations, watches, cameras and the like.

The Soviet Union has been taking part in the construction of industrial projects and power stations in a number of Latin American countries and is filling their orders in some areas like urban transport.

However, in developing their own industries, some Latin American countries have started to introduce measures to ban or restrict imports of machines, industrial plant and other similar articles. When large projects are under way, Brazil, for example, allows the import of no more than 20 per cent of their plant, the rest to be supplied by indigenous industries.

Therefore, new forms of trade in engineering products increasingly include industrial cooperation and joint ventures on beneficial basis, such as deliveries of individual parts or assemblies. Soviet tractors are imported in knock-down form to Mexico where they are assembled with some of the parts being supplemented by local manufacturers. Another example is the Soviet deliveries of shaping heads for hosiery machines made in Mexico.

Apart from industrial cooperation, it is now seen advisable to launch such forms of industrial cooperation with Latin America as long-term sales of goods contracts, sales of goods from ware-houses and development of tripartite cooperation.

Until recently, the Soviet Union was selling Latin American countries such goods whose purchase under the laws of practically all countries on the continent is a prerogative of a state. Now, however, increasing amounts of goods are sold to individual firms who are buying Soviet cars, tractors, bearings, watches and chemicals, etc.

The Latin American exporters of goods to the Soviet Union are mostly private firms. They sell the USSR cocoa beans and products made of them, coffee, meat, maize, wheat, soya beans, vegetable oils; different non-ferrous metals and their concentrates, bananas, wool and sisal. Some of these goods make up for a sizeable proportion of Soviet imports of these products in general, including non-ferrous metals, grain, meat, vegetable oils, bananas, wool, etc.

In recent years, Latin American exports to the USSR have included manufactures and semi-finished products such as footwear, clothes, hides and skins, leather, medicines, etc. The appearance in Soviet trade of articles made by Latin American industries is giving these a boost, creating prospects for their growing involvement in trade with the USSR.

Argentina and Brazil accounted for nearly 90 per cent of all the Soviet trade with the Latin American countries in 1980. In 1978, Argentina overtook Brazil as the leading Soviet partner in Latin America. Estimates show that in 1980 the USSR and Argentina were to exchange over 1.1 thousand million rubles' worth of goods. Argentina is selling this country wheat, maize, wool, hides and skins, flax and tung oil, meat and other products. In July, 1980 the two countries signed an agreement for 1980-1985 for the delivery of at least 4 million tons of maize and sorgho and 500,000 tons of soya beans a year. This agreement was signed in spite of the pressure from the United States which had tried to prevent increased sales of Argentinean wheat to the USSR.

The Soviet Union primarily sells Argentina machines and equipment. It supplies the turbines and generators for the Salto Grande 1.2-million-kilowatt hydroelectric project and for Costañera and Bahía Blanca thermal power stations, as well as hoisting equipment, lorries, etc. In 1980, shipments began of trolley-buses for the city of Rosario, making Argentina the second country on the continent after Colombia to introduce this Soviet means of urban transport.

Yet, the USSR's exports to Argentina are much smaller than the amount of goods that it is buying from that country, a factor which is putting constraints on Soviet-Argentinean trade, hampering Soviet imports diversification. Nor is Argentina an exceptional case. Soviet trade with other Latin American countries is far from being well balanced, which is hindering its growth.

In 1980, trade with Brazil is most likely to reach the 250 million rubles mark, a slight increase over the past year. Yet, this is less than the usual case in the mid-1970s. This has happened because of the reductions in Soviet oil exports and because of the cessation of the exports of soya beans, a previously important item of Brazilian exports to the

Soviet Union. Brazil, which has refused to toe the line on the US-imposed embargo on trade with the USSR, has been unable to sell its soya beans because of the adverse epizootic situation in some Brazilian states producing this crop.

Like in 1979, the Soviet Union has continued supplying Brazil with heavy equipment for the 1.2-million-kilowatt Sobradinho hydroelectric power project, metal-cutting tools, bearings and potassium salt. From Brazil, we have been importing cocoa beans, cocoa oil, coffee, castor oil, sisal, etc.

Brazil wants to diversify its exports to the Soviet Union including manufactures. The Brazilians have held different exhibitions of their consumer goods in the USSR. They have decided on a number of measures to increase trade with the Soviet Union, such as consolidating the contractual base, concluding long-term contracts, etc.

Since the beginning of 1978, there has been a tendency towards growth in the volume and variety of goods exchanged between the Soviet Union and Colombia. This has been largely promoted by the General Agreement signed by the two countries in 1977 on the shipment to Colombia of heavy power engineering equipment for Alto Sinu, a major hydro-electric power complex to be commissioned in 1984-1986. The cost of Soviet equipment is expected to exceed \$100,000,000. In 1980, the Soviet Union was visited by the Colombian Minister of Mines and Energy. During their talks here, the parties discussed a number of issues involved in the further expansion of trade, a goal which was also in the focus of the attention of the Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation which met in Bogota last autumn. There has been a marked increase in the sales of Soviet Niva (VAZ-2121) cross-country car, apart from which Colombia is buying electrical measuring instruments, medicines and other goods of Soviet make. From Colombia, the Soviet Union mostly buys coffee, meat and bananas.

Trade between the USSR and Panama will undoubtedly expand following the agreements on trade and the exchange of trade missions signed in 1979. So far, the Soviet trade with Panama has consisted of exports of Soviet engineering products to the free trade zone of the port of Colón where the Soviet Union delivers cars, bearings, watches, clock-works and cameras. In order to have spare parts for Soviet cars available at all times, the Panamanian firm International Sears has built a large warehouse in the free zone.

Medium-capacity tractors are the main item of Soviet exports to Mexico. These machines are delivered knocked-down for their assembly at the Mexican government company Sidená under a 10-year agreement. The Mexicans have already bought nearly 4,000 tractors which have proved highly efficient in local conditions. In addition, the USSR sells Mexico turbo-drills for its oilfields, and metal-cutting tools, and buys Mexican coffee, vegetable, fibre for polishing cut glass, etc. Further expansion of Mexican-Soviet trade depends largely on efforts by state agencies and business circles from both countries. This growth could be stimulated by the implementation of the measures which the two sides agreed on at the recent meeting of the Inter-Governmental Commission on Trade.

Soviet exports to Peru comprise aircraft, oil tanks, metal-cutting tools and sodium bichromate. Peru is the only Latin American country (aside from Cuba) which is buying Soviet aircraft.

It sells the Soviet Union lead and non-ferrous metal concentrates. The Peruvians were the first in Latin America to conclude long-term (five-year) contracts for the supplies of their goods. Regrettably, trade with Peru is developing unevenly and is beset with difficulties. While the

main partners of the Soviet exporters to Peru are government firms, most of the Peruvian exports are supplied by private firms, and the number of these firms trading with the Soviet Union remains quite limited. In 1980, however, some changes began to take place when a number of contracts were signed for Soviet supplies of tractors, cars and some other goods to private firms.

Trade with Jamaica started only late in 1977 when the two countries signed agreements on trade, on deliveries of Soviet machines and equipment, and on the establishment of trade missions. In 1979, a long-term agreement was signed under which the Soviet Union will buy Jamaican alumina. Having thus secured a market, the Jamaicans began the construction of their first national factory to produce alumina. The four existing factories belong to foreign monopolies. In some years, the Soviet Union bought large quantities of Jamaican black pepper which is the second most important item of exports from the island. The first Soviet exports were brought to Jamaica in 1979—so far, they have only included cars.

Special mention should be made of Soviet relations with two Latin American countries which have chosen a new path of development—Nicaragua and Grenada. Unlike some other Latin American countries, they do not as yet have any solid business contacts with the USSR's foreign trade organisations. Yet, all the necessary conditions for such trade have been provided. The Soviet Union has signed a number of major agreements with both of them. Among these are agreements on trade, on deliveries of Soviet machines and equipment with favourable payment terms, etc. Under a five-year agreement, the Soviet Union undertakes to buy large quantities of Nicaraguan coffee, cotton and sugar which give that Central American country a stable market for these commodities.

From Grenada, the Soviet Union's trade organisations have been buying nutmeg through intermediaries. Since both countries established diplomatic relations, the need has been felt for them to have direct trade. Government delegations from Grenada have visited the Soviet Union for this purpose.

Despite the complicated internal situation in Bolivia, destabilised by successive coups in recent years, there has been a certain growth in Soviet trade with that country, too. Soviet organisations have been taking part in the construction of a tin ore enrichment plant in Potosí, and the foundations for a similar plant have been laid in Oruro. In exchange, Bolivia has been selling the USSR tin and concentrates of non-ferrous metals. The internal political situation complicates the development of trade with Uruguay, where trade with the Soviet Union is given less attention after a military government took power.

In examining trade relations with the developing Latin American countries, it is necessary to take into account the different and even divergent political tendencies which can be traced to events of the past few decades and more remote developments. Although most of these countries attained independence over 150 years ago, economically they have not yet become completely independent of monopoly capital. Imperialism openly regards Latin America as its pantry of raw materials, foodstuffs and semi-finished products. Latin American countries continue to be objects for neo-colonialist expansion by imperialist states.

Yet, some countries there, particularly Argentina, Brazil and Mexico, have shown a rapid growth in their industries: steel metallurgy, engineering, the chemical industry and oil processing, and the production of textiles, foods and other products. At present, Latin America accounts

for 60 per cent of manufactures produced in the developing world. Apart from markets, the countries in the area are insistently looking for different forms of economic integration, which is accompanied by growing protectionist trends both in Central and South America.

Monopolies from the United States, West European countries and Japan are bitterly competing for the Latin American markets. This rivalry is exacerbating the difficulties facing Latin American countries: persistent balance of payments deficits, exhaustion of gold and currency reserves, worsening conditions for trade, and the aggravation of internal social and economic problems.

All these factors, combined with the tense political situation in some countries of the Western Hemisphere are leaving their imprint on the foreign trade policies of most Latin American nations. The realistically thinking statesmen, political leaders and public organisations there come out for greater trade with the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. However, they are encountering serious difficulties mostly created by those who fear that such trade will undermine their domination of Latin American economies.

Acting in concert with the reactionary circles in Latin American countries, transnational corporations are engaged in massive propaganda campaigns alleging that the development of trade with the Soviet Union will undermine the political system of these countries. Such campaigns are accompanied by virulent anti-communist and anti-Soviet innuendoes. The mass media are induced to carry articles about the supposedly low quality of Soviet machines and equipment, about their deficient servicing, about shortages of spare parts, etc. Although these inventions are refuted by the growing Soviet exports to Latin America, they do not cease to appear, and organs of the American monopolistic press are openly joining this slanderous campaign.

Newsweek magazine is persistently introduced in the Western Hemisphere by the American information and propaganda machine. Last summer, it printed an article which depicted the development of economic ties between the USSR and Latin America as an "economic offensive" undertaken by the Soviet Union. The magazine admitted that "the United States is increasingly worried" about this offensive.¹ These worries have been caused by quite obvious reasons. *Newsweek* complains that greater Soviet trade may reduce the profits the American businesses have been making in Latin America, and that it may have an adverse effect on Washington's "political influence" in the region which as never before has become important for the US strategists.

In its article, *Newsweek* berates the quality of Soviet turbines. Its allegations are totally unfounded. Last August, Argentinean newspapers carried a statement by Viviani Rossi, Secretary of the Joint Argentinean-Uruguayan Commission implementing the Salto Grande project. Describing the Soviet turbines and generators delivered to the project, he emphasised that he did not know "any other enterprises in the world which would make better power units."²

The actions, whatever their form, of those who oppose the Soviet trade with Latin America have had their negative effect. Some countries, which on the whole are pursuing a line for better trade with the USSR, have had to yield to pressure from major foreign capital and to erect barriers to some Soviet exports. In Colombia, for example, custom tariffs on Soviet cars have been raised as a result of interference by motor-manufacturing concerns, including the General Motors Corp.

¹ *Newsweek*, Aug. 4, 1980.

² See *Clarín*, Aug. 6, 1980.

This policy of artificial restraint on the development of trade with the Soviet Union comes into conflict with the necessity experienced by the Latin American countries to use all their external and internal resources to do away with their economic backwardness and to speed up their economic growth. It contradicts the principles laid down in the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States which the United Nations General Assembly adopted in 1974. It is also at variance with the decisions and recommendations by the UN Conference on Trade and Development. Running counter to the letter and the spirit of these documents is the refusal by some Latin American countries to grant such favourable terms in trade with the USSR as they have extended to the industrialised countries of the West.

Yet, most far-sighted political leaders and businessmen in most Latin American countries increasingly realise that curbing trade with the USSR is against their national interests, and will do them no good, particularly if they need greater markets for their products and sources of goods for their economic development.

Despite all the seriousness and complexity of the problems and obstacles standing in the path of the Soviet trade with Latin America, the key factor here consists in the existence of objective economic prerequisites for further growth, as the economies of the Soviet Union and of Latin American countries can complement each other in many ways. We hope that the existing economic conditions and the growing need experienced in Latin American countries for the geographical diversification of their trade will lead to a further expansion and deepening of business cooperation between the USSR and these countries. The basis for this has been laid in the form of contracts already signed, particularly for longer periods.

Trade between the Soviet Union and Latin American countries will have to overcome many difficulties before it reaches the level of the partners' potential. It will take time for the most promising trends in it to be determined, and mutual export possibilities and import requirements to be examined in detail.

Yet, the trade development prospects will in many respects depend on the atmosphere accompanying this cooperation, particularly in the Latin American countries themselves. As to the Soviet Union, this country has been steadily pursuing a line towards developing mutually beneficial and equitable trade links with Latin American countries.

COUNTRY SECTION

BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AGREE TO REDUCE IMPORT TAXES

PY132125 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 6 Mar 81 p 16

[Excerpts] Brasilia (O GLOBO)--Beginning today, the tax on financial operations (IOF) [imposto sobre operacoes financeiras] will be reduced from 25 to 20 percent on Brazilian imports from member countries of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). Moreover, CACEX [Foreign Trade Department] will release--within 7 days at the most--import guidelines on Argentine products, thus ending a delay of several months.

These were two of the main concessions granted by Brazil in exchange of the cancellation of the 20-percent surtax imposed by Argentina in January on imports of Brazilian products. Brazil also agreed to import 650,000 boxes of Argentine apples during the months of March and April.

The terms of the agreement between the two countries were officially published yesterday by Acting Finance Minister Eduardo de Carvalho and CACEX director Benedito Moreira. These terms are included in a memorandum of understanding signed by Benedito Moreira, head of the Brazilian delegations, who has been negotiating the agreement since last month, and Alejandro Estrada, Argentine secretary of trade and international economic negotiation.

According to the memorandum of understanding, Argentina also agreed to eliminate the declaration for imports of Brazilian products. In addition, Argentina also agreed to reassess the antidumping regulations on some Brazilian products, including textiles, paper and steel tubes.

CSO: 3001

PERUVIAN ECONOMY MINISTER VISITS ARGENTINA

PY151941 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Mar 81

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Mar (TELAM)--Peruvian Prime and Economy Minister Manuel Ulloa arrived in Argentina last night.

At the Ezeiza international airport he explained that the goal of his visit is to implement economic accords which have been discussed for some time and to strengthen the political, economic and social bonds between Peru and Argentina.

He also said that "among fraternal nations it is very important to strengthen Latin American integration and to reach agreements on various issues of international politics."

In response to a question concerning the domestic situation of his country, he stated that there is stability and continuity at the governmental level and that the government has the support of the people. He added that despite problems such as the rains and the floods, the situation is improving.

He also expressed his belief that the inflationary process will alleviate in the next few months, that the economy will be reactivated and that Peru will once again pursue its goals of development and social justice, which are very important.

With regard to the recent conflict with Ecuador, Minister Ulloa stressed the effective intervention of the nations which are acting as guarantors of the Rio de Janeiro Protocol (Argentina, Chile, Brazil and the United States) and added that Peru wishes to reestablish normal relations with the fraternal nation of Ecuador.

He said: "We hope that this has been just a painful phase which has been overcome." Finally, he said that Argentina [words indistinct] and that he is very happy to be here.

CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

CURA CELEBRATES GRENADIAN REVOLUTION--Manuel Pineiro, member of the party Central Committee and chief of its American Department, spoke here in Havana at a ceremony that was presided over by Armando Hart, member of the party Politburo and of the Council of State, on the occasion of the second anniversary of the Grenadian revolution. Grenada is a nation of giants and it has not hesitated in the slightest in the face of the threats of imperialism, Pineiro said. He recalled that Cuba and Grenada are tied by historic dates which mark the feats of their sons. [Text] [FL141254 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Mar 81]

AALAPSO, OCLAE GREET GRENADA REVOLUTION--The Afro-Asian-Latin American People's Solidarity Organization (AALAPSO) and the Continental Organization of Latin American Students (OCLAE) have released in the Cuban capital a message of greeting to the Grenadian revolution on the occasion of the second anniversary of its triumph. In a message to Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, AALAPSO secretary general emphasizes that the Grenadian revolution marked a historic change in the life of the fraternal country which in a short time has placed itself--along with Cuba and Nicaragua--on the vanguard of the liberation movement in the region. On behalf of Latin American and Caribbean students, OCLAE likewise expresses its unrestricted support for the people, youth and students of Grenada. [Text] [FL141730 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 14 Mar 81]

RODRIGUEZ ATTENDS GRENADA RECEPTION--Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the party Politburo and vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers, attended the reception hosted last night by William Richard Jacobs, Grenada's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Cuba. Grenada yesterday celebrated the second anniversary of the armed action which, led by incumbent Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, overthrew the Eric Gairy tyranny and initiated a process of economic and social transformations in that small Caribbean island. Other guests included members of the party Central Committee, leaders of mass organizations and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to our country. [Text] [FL141840 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Mar 81]

CUBA, GRENADA HOLD TALKS--In St George's, Grenada, that Caribbean country's prime minister, Maurice Bishop, and the Cuban delegation to the festivities marking the second anniversary of the Grenadian revolution, which is headed by Dr Sergio del Valle, member of the PCC Politburo and minister of public health, have held fraternal talks. The Grenadian people are celebrating today the second anniversary of

the historic people's coup headed by the top leader of the new Jewel Party and prime minister, Maurice Bishop, which overthrew the corrupt and oppressive regime of Eric Gairy. The Cuban delegation to the festivities, which is also formed by Col Arnaldo Tamayo, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee and first Latin American and Caribbean cosmonaut, has fulfilled in Grenada an active program of visits and interviews. [Text] [FL131521 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 13 Mar 81]

CUBAN DELEGATION VISITS GRENADA--Sergio del Valle, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Politburo and minister of public health, has visited the site where Cuban internationalist workers and Grenadian workers are building a modern airport. Sergio del Valle was accompanied on the tour by Cuban and Grenadian construction officials. The workers welcomed the delegation at the big construction site which included the refilling of two big bays and a lot of earth moving. The party Politburo member watched a demolition operation and visited the offices, housing, dispensary, laboratory and other installations, including rock quarries. Meanwhile, the alternate member of the party Central Committee and first Latin American and Caribbean cosmonaut [Arnaldo Tamayo] has asserted that space research of the socialist countries is for peaceful means in contrast to what happens in the United States. He stressed this characteristic of the inter-cosmos program promoted by the Soviet Union clears the way for many countries to participate in and take advantage of the results of research. Tamayo made these statements at a press conference in St George's, Grenada, in answering a U.S. journalist who had asked about the differences in the objectives sought by the United States and the Soviet Union. [Text] [FL141320 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Mar 81]

ALARCON RECEIVES PERUVIAN REPRESENTATIVES--Cuba's acting foreign minister, Ricardo Alarcon, alternate member of the party's Central Committee, has received a Peruvian delegation made up by senators Enrique Bernales of the Revolutionary Socialist Party and Jose Carlos Martin of the ruling Popular Action Party. The meeting transpired in a very cordial atmosphere. Matters of interest for the two countries were discussed in its course. [Text] [FL130155 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Mar 81]

NICARAGUAN ATTORNEY GENERAL IN CUBA--Ernesto Castillo, minister of justice [attorney general] of the fraternal Republic of Nicaragua, left for home this morning following a working visit to Cuba. Osvaldo Dorticos, member of the party Politburo and minister of justice, and vice ministers [of justice] bade him farewell at Jose Marti airport. [Text] [FL131836 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Mar 81]

CSO: 3010

GRAFFIGNA LABELS VIOLA'S U.S. VISIT POSITIVE

PY131839 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1531 GMT 12 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Cordoba, 12 Mar (NA)--Gen Omar Graffigna, commander of the air force, has said here that "the process is not worn out" and that if eventually some of the men in the process drop out "it will definitely not affect the continuity of the actions taken to fulfill the great objectives set at the start of the process."

Graffigna, who talked to reporters in the Military Aviation School where he arrived for a 2-day inspection this morning, denied reports about the formation of a political party with official support. He said that "there is no such thing."

He also said that the military junta believes that the meeting between President-designate Roberto Viola and U.S. President Ronald Reagan is "very positive."

Asked about the Beagle conflict with Chile, Graffigna referred to the official communique released last Tuesday after the military committee meeting and explained that "because of diplomatic prudence" he could not reveal the content of the Argentine answer to Pope John Paul II.

Regarding the imminent visit of President-designate Roberto Viola to the United States, Graffigna said that the military junta has appropriately discussed this matter and that it believes that "a contact of this type is very positive."

He added that the U.S. change of attitude toward Argentina is quite noticeable because the international community "has realized that Argentina has acted with justice in this process in view of the internal demands created by subversion."

He added: "Although it is a bit late, the legitimate actions taken by Argentina have been recognized, therefore, this visit--whether private or semiofficial--is very important. The meetings with President Reagan and with other high-ranking U.S. officials will not be protocol visits of 5 minutes but hour-long meetings."

He said: "It cannot be denied that it is always important to contact a leading country like the United States, which is Western and Christian as we are."

Graffigna refused to discuss the agenda of Viola and Reagan. He just said that the dialogue "will be extensive and all matters of common interest will be discussed."

Reporters were also interested to know the Argentine answer on the situation in El Salvador to Washington's envoy Gen Vernon Walters. Graffigna said that "the United States did not ask for an opinion. Its envoy informed us about the U.S. position on the situation of that Central American country."

In answer to a question related to the human rights situation and the forthcoming ILO meeting, Graffigna said that "the Argentine position has been strengthened considerably in the international arena recently."

Asked about the future and immediate air force plans, Graffigna praised the work being done in the Cordoba Air Materiel Complex and that the production of the Pucara airplanes continues.

He then referred to another project for the fabrication of an advanced basic jet in agreement with a foreign country. He announced that the first prototypes will be ready in 1983 and 1984 with the intention of starting production line run in 1985.

Another project he mentioned was the construction, during the decade of the 90's, of jet fighters "like the best in the world" of the A4 or Mirage type.

Graffigna indicated that these projects will give Argentina and its aeronautics industry significant international prestige.

CSO: 3010

JOURNALIST SPECULATES ON U.S. RECEPTION FOR VIOLA

PY160216 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 15 Mar 81 pp 3, 7

["Politics and Labor" column by James Neilson: "A New Chapter in Erratic Relations"]

[Excerpt] Barring any last-minute hitches, President-to-be Roberto Viola will land in Washington today to begin what he and his admirers fervently hope will be a new and more pleasant chapter in the erratic history of Argentine-U.S. relations. He could hardly have chosen a better time for getting on back-slapping terms with the Reaganauts. Given the ebb and flow of democratic politics, the new administration's enthusiasm for Latin American dictators is likely to wane as the months pass and they cause their friends in Washington more and more embarrassment. For the time being, however, Latin American generals are in fashion and the U.S. administration is more than willing to defend them against their malicious liberal critics. Unfortunately, the more abuses the generals commit, the more ammunition the liberals will have to throw at Reagan, and what once looked like a distinct asset could soon be seen as a liability. It would therefore, one might have thought, have been in the military's interest to forego such tempting but damaging initiatives as cracking down on local human rights organizations. Nonetheless, they went ahead. In consequence, Viola may have to face questioning from irreverent U.S. journalists about the hauling in of 67 "Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo" and a Franciscan priest, something he could have done without. The timing of this particular coup, which followed close behind the arrest of six human rights leaders on extremely unlikely charges, was unfortunate. But then the country's presidents, present and future, have always had bad luck in this respect. President Videla's trips to such key foreign cities as Caracas and Washington were also marred by outrageous incidents back home, as though someone had been trying to tell him something.

Tomorrow Viola is scheduled to meet Secretary of State Alexander Haig, another old soldier who has made a second career for himself in politics. Presumably Viola is familiar with the weird military jargon employed by Haig in his attempts to communicate with the outside world, so he should be able to help the interpreter do his job nuancedly. On Tuesday Viola will be received by President Ronald Reagan and such weighty dignitaries as Presidential Adviser Richard Allen and the Undersecretary for Inter-American Affairs John Bushnell. As they all appear to be fairly well disposed towards him, he should have little difficulty in achieving his main objective, which is getting his administration off to a good start in

its relations with the United States. His admirers here are certainly confident about his chances. Ever since his trip to Washington was confirmed--after the usual sequence of rumour, denial, and affirmation--they have been enthusing over the Argentine-U.S. love-in they are convinced will take place and predicting sweeping changes in the official U.S. view of the military "process."

But while Viola is unlikely to be without soul mates in Reagan's entourage, the business of improving relations between the people ruling the United States and Argentina is unlikely to be as straightforward as some optimists seem to think. Although the rightwingers around Reagan believe Latin American generals are the salt of the earth and Jimmy Carter was a tactless swine to be rule to them, many other U.S. potentates take a somewhat different view. They think that although Carter's human rights policy may have been inconsistently applied and was, perhaps, very harmful in places like Nicaragua and Iran, it was well on target as far as Argentina was concerned. These people will no doubt try to recoup some of their recent political losses by making the most of the spectacle of Reagan hobnobbing with the representative of a regime with an unenviable reputation for brutality. If respect for fundamental civil rights is more marked under Viola than it has been under his predecessors, the Reagan administration's willingness to treat him as a valued friend and ally will pay off. If, however, there are any more nasty incidents involving the bullying of human rights activists, this approach could become very expansive politically and might even be abandoned.

CSO: 3020

PLAZA DE MAYO MOTHERS ARRESTED FOR DEMONSTRATING

PY141910 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 13 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Police yesterday decided to enforce law 20,120--which prohibits many types of public gatherings--and arrested 68 people at a demonstration by the Mothers of Plaza de Mayo.

The 68 people were arrested while demonstrating, as the Plaza Mothers do nearly every Thursday, to back their demands for information on the whereabouts of their children who as a result of political unrest disappeared before and since the military takeover in 1976.

The police held the demonstrators on charges of breaking the law against public gathering and of being in possession of handbills urging people to take part in a demonstration which would be filmed for viewing abroad, according to government reports.

Police said last evening that the 68 people had been detained, officially identified and released. A police communique reported the 68 arrests, but it did not give the identities of any of those who were held.

Unofficial reports, however, indicated that one of those picked up in the federal police sweep at Plaza de Mayo was a Franciscan priest. The majority of those detained were identified by police as "members of the so-called committee for the missing and political prisoners."

The Paz Y Justicia organization, which Nobel Peace Prize-winner Adolfo Perez Esquivel heads, yesterday put out a statement repudiating the arrests.

The statement was signed by Perez Esquivel and it identified the priest who was reportedly arrested in Plaza de Mayo as Father Antonio Puiqjane, who, Paz Y Justicia says, was accompanying the mothers.

The human rights group's statement went on to say that "we feel deep consternation at this act, which does not allow us to believe in a policy change under the future (Viola) administration. We know that it is part of a stepping up of repressive measures against society as a whole: unionists, businessmen, politicians and human rights organizations.

"We repudiate acts such as this one...and demand the ceasing of this wave of intimidation."

CSO: 3020

ECONOMY MINISTER GIVES FAREWELL SPEECH

PY141834 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 13 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] (NA)--The effort put into the economic program so far should be continued with "perseverance" and "firmness," Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz said during his farewell speech last night. He admitted that it was nevertheless still difficult to measure the real outcome of the program and that interest rates are still high, but that they would come down "once this transition period is over."

Martinez de Hoz, speaking on radio and TV "for the last time as economy minister" gave a summary of his action in government since taking office in April 1976.

"Although the reorganization of the economy has not been achieved in these (last) 5 years," he said, "solid bases for the transformation had nevertheless been set up.

"A continuity of effort is necessary. It must be done with perseverance and firmness, and without giving in to pressures from groups, the government itself or the public, but taking into account only the general welfare of the nation."

On the subject of the reorganization of state enterprises, Martinez de Hoz emphasized the fact that in 1976 14 of them were in need of government subsidies, while by 1978 this number had been reduced to 2 Argentine railways (Ferrocarriles Argentinos) and the post (Encotel).

Speaking of the liberalization and opening up of the economy, the minister pointed out that "our action has concentrated basically on freeing the economic system of excessive controls, and regulations which have hindered free enterprise." His government, had attempted to leave behind the "closed economy" boundaries and to let in "a revitalizing breath of domestic and foreign competition."

Growth of national industries is however to be promoted whenever they prove economically feasible, he said. Industry in general must be, nevertheless, protected throughout its entire growth process, but such protection must gradually fade out.

CSO: 3020

BRIEFS

CGT VOICES PROTEST--Buenos Aires, 12 Mar (NA)--In a communique issued tonight, the General Labor Confederation (CGT) repudiated the "government's arbitrary repeal of the law which gives bank and insurance workers job security," and added that "this new measure against the workers cancels out gains of more than 35 years to benefit the business houses which uphold the process." In a statement released last night after a lengthy meeting, the CGT voiced its solidarity with the workers of the Argentine Gear Transmission Factory, who have suspended their activities to protest the massive firing ordered by the company. The CGT also expressed solidarity with the workers of the Celulosa Argentina Enterprise in view of their unrest due to the possibility of losing a work source. The CGT ended by stating that it has received the National Board of the Peronist Union's Association which voiced "its total support" and its desire that "the CGT strengthen and gradually occupy the position it deserves to recover all the gains which have been taken away from the workers." [Excerpt] [PY171705 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2329 GMT 12 Mar 81]

CSO: 3010

EDITORIAL EXAMINES U.S. REPUBLICAN ATTITUDES

PY101715 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 1 Mar 81 p 3

[Editorial: "Reagan and the Third World Countries"]

[Text] Either because they believe in nationalism or because they reject Soviet interventionism, there have been those who saw in Reagan's victory the possibility of a change of the times in which the interests of poor countries, Third World countries, would be respected and the principle of nonintervention--which can be shaped in so many different ways in accordance with the interpretations that are given--would be particularly respected.

But these people surely do not remember what the Republican Party has traditionally promoted and stood for and what its presidents have done, even those in recent years.

Being a Republican is to a certain extent synonymous with conservatism and militant and militarized nationalism. We believe that exacerbated nationalism is suitable adjective since the Republicans tend to prevail over adverse criticism and perils threatening the United States; beyond the interests of the United States they care very little about the interests of others. Republicans tend to defend the rights of the United States, its military power, its capacity to impose its will in other regions and to eliminate any resistance wherever it exists. They usually disdain the duties and responsibilities that any world power must assume because of the simple fact of being one. In the past few decades there has been a greater opening on the part of the Democrats than of the Republicans, a greater adherence to democratic principles than to imperialistic activities and the enforcement of a sphere of influence. It is not just because of their attractive personalities--although this did play an important role--that the Democratic Party has produced presidents like Roosevelt or Kennedy. And likewise it is not by mere chance but in keeping with coherent planning that Reagan has cut U.S. foreign aid to Third World countries and place particular emphasis on U.S. military expenditures, including military aid to other countries.

Republican conservatism can also be seen though this party's tendency toward economic power, a tendency which is more marked here than among the Democrats. The move is to open, maintain and, should the need arise, impose submission on the markets. The old imperialism, which in the case of the United States had predominantly economic characteristics, as opposed to that of the colonial mother

countries of Europe which had been more political, is bound to acquire new strength. It is not for nothing that we find among the pillars of the Republican Party the U.S. financial sectors, the great multinational companies and everything they represent. It is not for nothing that it is being said that the decline of official aid is bound to be compensated by the almost unlimited opening to investment of private capital.

Thus, the attitude the United States is adopting toward problems in El Salvador is the logical one. The fact that it is wielding the threat of military intervention is merely a not unexpected return to the old "big stick" (given in English) policy. The warnings about possible semimilitary intervention in other areas of the world where there are no conflicts capable of going beyond the domestic level clearly show what can be expected by the weak countries which say want to become somewhat less obedient and less pliant to what Washington may say or want. Even though this power of the United States has always had an influence on world affairs, and even though this power evidenced itself through pressures during the Democratic administration, now we will almost certainly see something much harsher and more decisive.

In sum, the nationalists who would like to see a strengthening and improvement of the poor and weak countries may find that they have had fewer difficulties with the Democratic administration and that they will have more difficulties with the Republicans, especially with Reagan. There are no grounds for illusions. The action orchestrated from the White House will be either anticommunist or any other action capable of benefiting the United States; everything else will either take second place or will deserve no attention at all.

Thus, even though coming from another side, Reagan's interventionist attitude is remarkably similar to the Soviet one; both evidence close-minded nationalism and the predisposition to use force.

CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

ARCE GOMEZ' REAPPOINTMENT--La Paz, 6 Mar (AFP)--The controversial ex-minister of the interior, Col Luis Arce Gomez, was made commander of the army's military academy here today, reported the state-run television. Arce Gomez, who was replaced during the cabinet crisis last month, has reiterated since then his loyalty to the government headed by Gen Luis Garcia Meza. Command of the military academy is one of the most important positions in the armed forces, to the extent that former President Hugo Banzer and the current chief of state had held that position before assuming the top office in the nation. [Text] [PY141304 Paris AFP in Spanish 1000 GMT 7 Mar 81]

FOREIGN DEBT REFINANCING--La Paz, 10 Mar (AFP)--Minister of Finance Jorge Tamayo Ramos revealed today that Bolivia has succeeded in refinancing \$423 million of its foreign debt, even though this transaction still depends on the approval of the International Monetary Fund. In his report to the press, Tamayo Ramos termed as favorable the negotiations that were held in Washington with the group of U.S. private banks and creditors. He indicated that the economic situation of the country continues to be very difficult. The minister recalled that Bolivia must pay nearly \$200 million by 5 April for amortization and for interest on short-term high-interest loans by U.S. banks. If this amount had not been paid, he noted, all of the external debt--which amounts to \$3.60 billion--would have been due for payment. Tamayo said that what had been accomplished in this regard was that short-term loans have been converted into medium-term obligations payable in 3 and 1/2 years with an additional 2-year deferment. He added that the medium-term loans were converted into long-term loans payable in 7 years with an additional 4-year grace period. He noted that interest rates are based on the "Libor" [London interbank offer rate], which has reached 19 percent per annum, in addition to a 2 percent per annum bank commission. If the IMF approves this transaction, Tamayo Ramos said, the new contracts to refinance part of the external debt will be signed on 31 March 1981. [Text] [PY131842 Paris AFP in Spanish 1505 GMT 10 Mar 81]

CSO: 3010

DAILY RAPS GOVERNMENT POSITION ON EL SALVADOR

PY180201 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Mar 81 p 3

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "A Shortsighted Diplomacy"]

[Text] Those who believe that Gen Vernon Walters came to Brasilia carrying decisions, and that he obtained support for them, are badly mistaken, although at the time the Brazilian people did not know what was discussed that day in Brasilia. Now that we have the joint declaration signed by presidents Joao Baptista Figueiredo and Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, we know Brazil's answer to U.S. queries: Latin American diplomacy favors peaceful solutions to conflicts and nonintervention, which is why Brazil and Colombia "disapprove of all forms of foreign intervention in the affairs of El Salvador."

No more diplomatic manner could have been found to tell the United States that it will not receive support for any measure which could violate the principles of self-determination of the peoples and nonintervention; in the same way, no higher-sounding rhetoric could have been used to disguise the firm decision to do nothing to prevent interests other than those of the Salvadorans from interfering in the conflict and weighting the scales to the side of those who definitely do not support the values upheld by the inter-American system.

The condemnation stated in the joint declaration is broad enough to give room to the claim that its signatories are against Cuban and Soviet actions and against the intentions of certain U.S. circles. However, this very broadness and vagueness clearly define the inter-American policy which Brazil and Colombia plan to pursue from now on. In fact, if the presidents of these two countries had believed it important and essential to condemn an imaginary U.S. intervention and at the same time reiterate opposition to having Central America and the Antilles be the continuing target of--if not intervention--at least active influence by Castroism or other doctrines incompatible with those which until only a short time ago have been those of Latin America, they would have been very careful to expressly mention the two dangers which are threatening the self-determination of the Latin American peoples.

The price paid for a leadership offered and refused halfway like old ladies blushing do when someone speaks of their youth and beauty, was Brazil's severance, on the soil of Spanish America--where anti-U.S. feeling has deep historical roots (and rightly so)--of any alleged or real ties with the United States, a severance

which was carried out by reasserting, just in case someone failed to understand, that the Brazilian Government would not tolerate any "forms of dependency and political and economic domination among states." This diplomatic position should not be taken as a break with Washington. All it means is withdrawal from Washington and the desire not to be involved in any of its policies in the hemisphere or anywhere else. This is why President Figueiredo must have unhesitatingly signed that paragraph of the joint declaration which deals with the relations between Latin America and the United States (we should read South America where it is written Latin America) which states: "That in the light of the current international situation it is necessary that relations between Latin America and the United States assume a new dimension with broad possibilities of cooperation, taking into consideration the interests of all parties involved, and a strict respect for the sovereignty of each state."

The sequence in which the statements were made gives us an inside look at the spirit which prevailed during the talks between Figueiredo and Turbey Ayala; based on collective will, the South American countries can reverse their relations with the United States within the disturbed international situation. The reference to Simon Bolivar's ideals merely confirms what we have said, recalling the fact that during the independence struggle, concerned about negotiating the transcontinental treaty with Spain (through which it significantly enlarged its territory) the United States turned down requests from broad domestic sectors to help the Latin American revolutionaries of those days.

The withdrawal which we have mentioned does not indicate a keen understanding of world problems or the dangers which--for Colombia first but undoubtedly for Brazil as well in the future--will stem from the contemplative attitude which has been assumed toward the Salvadoran civil war. From this point of view, the fact of allowing short term political interests to prompt a withdrawal from the United States in order to receive, and refuse, the leadership offered by Colombia, is not keeping with the farsighted strategy which has always characterized Itamaraty. Equally contrary to Itamaraty's realistic approach is the statement of the joint declaration that "democratic and representative institutions and the legal norms" could provide bloodless solutions for the Salvadoran crisis, in the middle of the civil war.

At least now we know exactly where Brazil's diplomacy stands: Looking for support in South America and Africa--despite the lack of consideration shown by Nigeria--and caring little about the fate which the future may hold for the United States. This is a strange approach to things indeed, in a world where international tensions are worsening and where Brazil's geographical position--with which so many of those in power are greatly pleased--places it in the West, not in the South.

CSO: 3001

BRAZIL SEEN LEADING SOUTH AMERICA DIPLOMATICALLY AGAINST U.S.

PY181206 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Mar 81 p 3

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "A Bad Time for Decisions"]

[Text] Perhaps because the impromptu opening statement made by President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala on welcoming President Joao Baptista Figueiredo at his arrival in Colombia was not the happiest one--he said: "Colombia has always considered Brazil as a nation which, because of its size and immense power, merits becoming a natural leader for undertaking many achievements which would be beneficial to America and mankind"--the Brazilian president and Brazilian diplomatic circles had to respond in a markedly discreet and careful manner.

Based on his restrained statements and reading between the lines of his speeches one may conclude, however, that it will not be just through bilateral agreements with South American countries that the Brazilian diplomacy will carry out its policy from now on: It considers that the serious current problems and the lack of an international order--be it economic, be it political--which go along with the weakening of the United Nations demand for solutions which ought to be negotiated from a position of force by the developing countries. Speaking at the banquet given at Tequendama Hotel, President Figueiredo himself ironically said that the North-South dialog was never intended to be based on "the North's charity or generosity." In other words, as long as the countries of the North never abide by a spirit of interdependent, integrated development but always held back from adopting a heroic stand, Brazil believes that the countries of the South must give up their role as plaintive customers. To give up this position means to opt for a new type of system.

President Turbay Ayala's unorthodox formula of a Brazilian leadership based on power --virtually considering that power yields rights--prompted an extremely tactful response from President Figueiredo who said that "we should not measure ourselves by degrees of power in our regions." More than a reply, this was a clarification because by wielding the banner of joint action at all times, the Brazilian president has exercised leadership.

A soberly conducted Brazilian leadership in the South American subcontinent (the president of the republic talks about Latin America but he seems to think of South America) could perhaps be instrumental in overcoming the exacerbated nationalisms elicited by such disastrous remarks as the one made by Nixon in 1972 ("wherever

Brazil goes, the rest of Latin America goes"). President Figueiredo conveyed his awareness of the risks involved in stimulating nationalism: Although these are remnants of archaic, selfish nationalist feelings, they entail political implications "which are disastrous for the international system between the Western world and the Third World, which needs to be restored."

Judging from the speeches and statements made by the president of the republic and in keeping with the clear priority assigned to South American countries, the Brazilian foreign policy makers are at least considering the prospects of the above "natural leadership": a leadership which will be the more effective and active the less explicitly it is stated and which, contrary to the belief that it is being proposed to the South American nations from inside, is imposed by the inevitable confrontation--diplomatic, of course, but still a tough confrontation--between the North and the South, especially between South America and the United States. This explains the Brazilian president's enthusiastic eulogy of Simon Bolivar.

The cult of Bolivar as the father of pan-Americanism is a permanent feature in South American Spanish-speaking intellectual circles. President Figueiredo invoked the name Bolivar as he was speaking at one of the most "important centers of coordination of Latin American political independence": We should seek inspiration in him to take the necessary actions in the present "like brothers who are to decide a family matter."

Yet Latin Americans are aware that Bolivar's pan-Americanism remained just an idea: an idea which has never materialized since the great continental meeting--the Congress of Panama (1826) proposed by Bolivar--failed. Yet this is an idea to which one always has to refer as a myth on the origin of pan-Americanism.

The invocation of Bolivar is designed to seek Latin American unity again, especially in South America, which seems to intend to isolate itself--now with Brazil's help--from the United States, not because the South American countries want to behave now as they did at the Panama Congress--that is, to seek a complete change of course --but because the Latin American countries have not apparently lost the habit of being anti-American. They are always demanding U.S. cooperation but without sharing responsibilities accordingly. U.S. isolation from the world is followed by Latin American isolation from the United States. This is a bad sign in the present situation and this is the moment in which Brazil seems to be ready to break its isolation and to accept the offer of Colombia.

CSO: 3001

COMMENTS ON PRESIDENT FIGUEIREDO'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

Journalist Analyzes Speech to Congress

PY082022 Rio de Janeiro BRAZIL HERALD in English 7 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--The annual message to Congress by the president at the beginning of a new legislative session, giving account of the state of public affairs in all sectors of government along with legislative plans, for the near future, generally has too much of routine character to arouse major popular interest. This year, the opening of Congress fell in the middle of carnival, probably the least propitious time for perusal of such a document. Nevertheless, President Figueiredo's message touched off a minor political tempest which may gain more force and vehemence in the next few days.

What aroused misgiving and criticism, along with gloomy speculations of the prospects of the political situation, is a passage in the presidential message warning of risks and dangers threatening the political opening. Figueiredo, who made the inauguration pledge of establishing in this country a genuine democracy, now voices veiled doubts on whether this is possible. The message does not expressly identify the origins of the threats that may jeopardize the march toward full democracy but gives some hints. While praising former President Ernesto Geisel for having started the redemocratization, Figueiredo ominously recalls in the same context that Geisel deemed necessary in critical political situations to close the Congress for lack of cooperation in a reform of the courts of justice proposed by the administration.

This must be understood as a clear warning that a similar situation might arise if the opposition in the Congress, or at least its radical sectors, keeps ignoring the president's repeated appeals for collaboration with the government. As Figueiredo in his message also said, his principal endeavor will be the realization of direct election of the state governors in 1982 and to see that those who are to be elected really will take over. It must be concluded that influential currents within the political establishment or "system" view those elections with skepticism and may be expected to frustrate their results if these should not seem convenient to what may be described as the hardliners of the regime set up by the military in 1964.

This passage was characterized by the leaders of the majority as a new and more emphatical call for constructive opposition and against negative radicalism which could provoke reactions by radicals on the opposite side.

But some opposition leaders viewed it more seriously. According to them, Figueiredo makes a threat to the opposition: either accept my invitation to collaborate or bear the eventual consequences.

Several commentators and observers inside and outside the Congress admit that this interpretation cannot be entirely discarded as unfounded. But some are inclined to attribute it all to a change of style. The message evidently was written by a new speechwriter whose style is remarkably different from that of those who wrote Figueiredo's previous speeches and formal messages. This is the opinion also of the archbishop of Sao Paulo, Cardinal Dom Paulo Arns, usually an outspoken political adversary of the government as leader of the church hierarchy's leftist wing. He believes that the passages in the presidential message which have aroused misgivings, were perhaps written by somebody not fully able to express the president's real and often repeated thought. In fact, the entire style of the message is remarkably different from Figueiredo's customary ways of expressing himself. But, of course, Figueiredo would not have signed it if he did not substantially agree with what the message not only says, but implies.

Deputy Candidio Sampaio, the new bench leader of the government's PDS in the Chamber, warned the opposition based on the text of the message that "if no concensus is reached in the Congress, serious risks may have to be faced."

This arouses the question, however, of what the opposition after all is expected to do in order to prevent an institutional crisis and perhaps even the suspension of the democratization process. In any democracy, it is the job of the parties forming the administration's legislative basis of support to okay the administration's designs and projects, at least the important ones while the opposition exists for criticizing and combating them, if possible with alternative proposals. If the regime should consider such attitudes of the opposition as hostile acts impeding the functioning of a democratic system, opposition members might gain the impression that what the regime wants is a Congress of yes-men. This exists in totalitarian countries but never in a democracy. If the regime should want to attribute to the opposition the part of an auxiliary force of support in order to go ahead with democratization, it could practically mark the opposite course, toward a totalitarian regime, only not based on violent repression but on mild persuasion, but on consensus. But consensus as a principle of administration is incompatible with the free working of democracy. This is the viewpoint expressed in the last few days by opposition sectors.

Poor Message

PY101751 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 5 Mar 81 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] Figueiredo's message to Congress on carnival Sunday is by no means a guiding document. What he said about the economic policy, the social sector, foreign relations or the domestic policy is merely a poor review of the past which, even so, was full of oversights and distortions that prevent the message from being taken seriously.

Worker leaders and the business sector will search in vain for any indication in the message of the guidelines to be followed. Although he frequently uses propaganda language—as may be recalled in several passages of his message—the chief of state deliberately does not make use of the "love it or leave it" triumphal style used during Emilio Medici's times.

The message mentions figures without giving figures for comparison, or they are compared to the liking of the author in order to point out results and cover up the disasters. An example? The boasted-about education of 600,000 students, which is an insignificant figure compared to the real needs and the increasing number of illiterates. Another example? The false assertion that the "new salary law which pays special attention to low income workers" was intended to be an effective measure aimed at income redistribution. Everybody knows that not only are the salary increases not in step with the inflation rate, but the freezing of salary readjustments for those who earn over 80,000 cruzeiros benefited the employers instead of those who are the worst paid. Therefore, there is no use searching for fleas on an elephant which is already full of them.

Politicians and political observers will find Figueiredo's message as confusing as the other sectors did because even in dealing with the specific subject of democratic organization the message surpassed the deceit of previous governments. After all, it is a pitiful lie to state that a political party reorganization "took place in 1980 in spite of the normal difficulties of such a vast country" when Planalto hindered this reorganization by all means available, above all by extending terms in municipal offices which did away with the practical means to organize the voters in order to break up the closed circles of the opposition and the government.

Nothing is positive, although 1980 ended with the denial of returning to the National Congress the basic requisites for its institutional performance. The fifth governing general has said nothing in this regard, probably because he already said enough about it on installing Marchezan. On the other hand, there is deliberate bad taste in recalling Geisel's judiciary reform as a not very subtle means to threaten Congress, which went into recess during the reform.

Joao Figueiredo only put two political issues forward with emphasis. He wants to change the electoral law in view of the upcoming elections but refrains from stating what he wants. He also wants to speed up the registration of political parties in order to avoid party switching, is reducing the PDS majority in Congress, and to increase the controlling powers of the party leaderships.

As usual the message represents the regime, and we already know what the regime is like.

CSO: 3001

PRESIDENT PLANS NUMEROUS VISITS ABROAD

PY161630 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 14 Mar 81 p 6

[Text] Bogota—President Joao Baptista de Figueiredo announced yesterday that he will visit the FRG in May, his seventh trip abroad since becoming president. He also revealed that he will also visit Peru and four African countries before the end of the year. Planalto Palace and Itamaraty are generally enthusiastic about the results of the presidential trips, and the idea is to continue the same rate of official visits until the end of the Figueiredo government.

The president has approximately 20 invitations from various governments for trips abroad, but not all of them will be accepted either due to lack of time or for political reasons. The invitation to visit the Soviet Union, for example, will probably not be accepted. A trip to Romania had been practically set for the second half of this year, but all indications are that a change in the agenda has caused a postponement.

The visit to Peru will take place in June and is being considered priority among the other invitations from other Latin American countries due to the importance Itamaraty has been giving to Brazil's rapprochement with the Andean Pact. Another South American country which has insisted through diplomatic channels that a visit by President Figueiredo is appropriate is Uruguay, the only country of the Southern Cone that has not yet been visited by the head of the Brazilian Government. But the opportunity to visit Montevideo in the near future is minimal, according to diplomatic sources.

Trips abroad next year will be affected by the fact that the president will be committed to the congressional elections with many trips throughout Brazil. But President Figueiredo stated at a press conference yesterday that his participation in the PDS convention will not suspend his schedule of trips abroad.

One of the probably trips next year will be to Canada or the United States. The Canadian Government has made efforts for greater rapprochement with Latin American countries, especially Brazil and Mexico, and has already reported to Itamaraty that a visit by President Figueiredo would help this rapprochement very much.

CSO: 3001

AID TO THE NORTHEAST DROUGHT VICTIMS

Cities Raided by Drought Victims

PY121742 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Mar 81 p 1

[Excerpt] Four cities of Ceara State (Senador Sa, Meruoca, Nova Russas and Pacajus) and one in Paraiba State (Bonito de Santa Fe) were invaded yesterday by approximately 5,000 drought victims seeking water and food. There was some pillaging and shooting in Bonito de Santa Fe and the mayor of the city sought refuge in Joao Pessoa. Bonito de Santa Fe is located on the border between Paraiba and Ceara.

Less than 24 hours after releasing 2,150 billion cruzeiros for the northeastern emergency zone, the Planning Ministry released 300 million cruzeiros more. The Ministry of Agriculture has announced that 1.5 billion cruzeiros will be allocated to cattlemen of eight states to help them purchase cattle feed. Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes has stated in Brasilia that "the solution to the drought problem must come from outside the drought area."

Drought Relief Money

PY162353 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 16 Mar 81 p 1

[Text] President Figueiredo will allocate 32 billion cruzeiros to help drought victims in the northeast in response to a request which Interior Minister Mario Andreazza will convey to him today on behalf of eight governors of northeastern states. One of the reasons for this decision is purely political. The governors have warned that if the federal government does not do something the opposition parties could win the 1982 elections in the rural areas of these states.

Meanwhile, rains are falling heavily in Pernambuco and Ceara, the areas which have fared worst under the drought; however, it is believed that most of the crops are completely lost. The government of Alagoas State has asked 2.5 billion cruzeiros to finance new jobs and to assemble a "mechanized agricultural patrol" which would take care of dam construction.

CSO: 3001

PAPER PRAISES SUSPENSION OF FOREIGNERS LAW

PY121300 Rio de Janeiro BRAZIL HERALD in English 11 Mar 81 p 2

[Summary of 10 March JORNAL DO BRASIL editorial: "Foreigner's Law"]

[Text] Justice Minister Abi-Ackel has announced that the government will not use the foreigners' statute for expelling aliens without residence permit, and will suspend proceedings already underway against them, pending congressional voting on the project of a new statute to be sent to the Congress soon. The new project will take into account objections made against the statute enacted last year by the Catholic Church, the Order of Barristers, the press and other commentators.

This is a decision demonstrating good sense within government. It might even surprise those who doubted that good sense and flexibility would prevail over rigid principles by which governments often try to prove strength.

It would be unfair to enforce against some aliens a law which in all likelihood will be liberalized soon, said the minister of justice. No reasoning could be more simple and coherent. It was recommended to the minister by President Figueiredo himself. The government wants to reach an understanding with all the political parties in the Congress on a revision of the statute. It is now up to the party leaders to answer the government's good intention through constructive cooperation when the new project is debated.

A law on foreigners in Brazil is necessary in view of the international panorama involving far-reaching changes in the field of immigration here. The new problems call for a specific law safeguarding Brazilian interests without violating the tradition of hospitality.

CSO: 3001

BRIEFS

NETO TO VISIT USSR--Planning Minister Delfim Neto will visit Moscow during the first half of this year, probably accompanied by Energy and Mines Minister Cesar Cals. According to information released yesterday by diplomatic sources in Brasilia, this visit will close the first phase of the project aimed at commercial rapprochement with Eastern Europe, which Itamaraty prepared in 1980. The Planning Ministry is awaiting with great interest the visit of the Soviet mission to Brazil. This mission is scheduled to arrive the day after tomorrow to hold negotiations with various government authorities. These negotiations will continue in Moscow in April during the meeting of the Brazilian-USSR joint commission, which will have to draw up the final texts of the accords aimed at increasing trade. [Text] [PY121714 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Mar 81 p 5]

POLICE DEMONSTRATION IN BAHIA--Salvador, Brazil, 15 Mar (AFP)--Army troops today prevented a demonstration which policemen of the northeastern State of Bahia were trying to stage in the city of Salvador on the occasion of the burial of Lt Valmir Alcantara, who was killed last night by the marines. Lieutenant Alcantara, 30, was killed last night when--together with other comrades, among whom was Lt Joao Mario de Almeida Lima who was seriously wounded during the clash--he tried to seize a police vehicle which was being used by the marines. Because of the tense atmosphere which has been prevalent in this capital since last Friday when the regular police went on strike for better salaries, the marines reacted to the action of Lt Alcantara. At the end of the clash Lt Alcantara was dead and Lt Almeida Lima was seriously wounded. This morning police officers tried to stage a protest during the burial of Lt Alcantara but were prevented from doing so by army troops. Since the police decided to paralyze activities there, army, navy and air force troops have been in charge of keeping order throughout Bahia State. According to a spokesman for the strike command, out of the 12,500 men of the regular police, 10,000 privates, noncoms and officers have joined the strike. [Text] [PY151927 Paris AFI in Spanish 1656 GMT 15 Mar 81]

CSO: 3010

M-19 ANNOUNCES CREATION OF 'PEOPLES ARMY OF MASSES'

PA112016 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1847 GMT 11 Mar 81

[Article by German Acero Espinoza]

[Text] Bogota, 11 Mar (EFE)--The clandestine guerrilla organization, the 19 April Movement [M-19], announced on Wednesday in Bogota the creation of a "people army of the masses" [ejercito popular de masas] to destabilize the power of the Colombian armed forces.

According to the Todelar Radio network quoting well-informed sources, this army has already begun to fight in various regions of the country where bloody battles between army troops and communist guerrillas have been taking place this week with a toll of over 10 dead rebels.

The same spokesmen claim that Carlos Toledo Plata and Jaime Bateman Cayo, two of the main leaders of the M-19 guerrillas, personally received the sophisticated war materiel which was seized earlier this week by the army in an area in southern Colombia, near the Ecuadorean border.

Today, Wednesday, a commando group made up of 400 men of the M-19 used powerful bombs to attack the town of Mocoa in Putumayo commissary, killing the mayor and the chief of police.

Likewise, troops from a police post in Palestina repelled the attack of an M-19 commando group that attacked the garrison using grenades, EFE has learned from a Defense Ministry source.

The high command of the armed forces--the navy, air force, army and police--was holding an urgent meeting in Bogota today to analyze the critical public order situation, which was described as "delicate" by the government during a cabinet meeting held on Tuesday.

The EFE news agency has learned from various government sources that a National Security Council will be convoked within the next few hours to discuss means for stopping the guerrillas in the rural area throughout the country.

A Defense Ministry spokesman told EFE that it is believed that some of the war materiel, such as the rockets and landmines, illegally entered the country to reinforce the equipment of the guerrillas who are fighting in the fields and mountains.

It was assured that the weapons seized earlier this week were coming from Cuba for the M-19 assault cells, which recently joined other organizations such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

The high military command said that right now it is necessary for all Colombians to cooperate and join to defend democracy which is being threatened by the subversive actions.

CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

GUERRILLAS KILLED, ARMS SEIZED--Bogota, 9 Mar (AFP)--Three guerrillas died today in Colombia and a large arms cache was seized, military spokesmen reported here today. Two of the guerrillas died near Tumaco, a port on the Pacific coast near the Ecuadorian border, when they attacked a patrol. The other died near Yacopi, 80 km northwest of Bogota. All were members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, the sources added. Meanwhile, a large cache presumably intended for subversive groups was uncovered during a routine inspection on a road in the Putumayo jungle area, 700 km south of here. Fifty-three G3 rifles, about 100 Thompson submachineguns, fragmentation grenades, several mortars and much ammunition were found on a truck carrying farm products. Another arms cache, this one for the use of narcotics traffickers, was located yesterday in La Guajira on the north coast. It consisted of 45 rifles, 12 magnum revolvers, 13 submachineguns and thousands of rounds of ammunition. [Text] [PA100314 Paris AFP in Spanish 2318 GMT 9 Mar 81]

BITTERMAN'S KILLERS NAMED--Bogota, 10 Mar (AFP)--The high command of the extremist Colombian 19 April Movement (M-19) confirmed here tonight the division existing within its ranks and released the names of those allegedly responsible for killing U.S. linguist Chester Allen Bitterman. The killers, according to a clandestine M-19 communique sent to the press today, are Jorge Sanchez Rojas (alias Genaro) and his accomplice Carlos Vidales Rivera. The communique, which is signed by top M-19 leaders Jaime Bateman, Carlos Toledo and Ivan Marino, states that the mastermind of the kidnapping and subsequent execution of the linguist is Hebert Bustamante, who to date had been considered the movement's ideologist. The communique states that several days ago, there was a formal break between the high command and the hardline faction known as the National Coordinating Board of the rank and file. This corroborates rumors of a rift within the M-19 that circulated after Bitterman's kidnapping. The high command indicates that these names were obtained after an internal investigation carried out by the M-19's regional branch in Cali, a city in western Colombia. [Text] [PA111211 Paris AFP in Spanish 0453 GMT 11 Mar 81]

EFFORTS FOR PEACE CONTINUE--Bogota--Government Minister German Zea Hernandez today said the recent outbreaks of violence in the country in no way will discourage the government in its efforts to attain peace. He emphasized that despite such criminal actions, the government is in control of the country. Zea Hernandez described these criminal activities as a maneuver to produce certain political consequences. The government minister made his statement during the adjournment ceremony of the National Congress. [Excerpt] [PA122009 Bogota Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 12 Mar 81]

AGREEMENT WITH POLAND--Bogota, 14 Mar (EFE)--The Colombian and Polish Governments have signed a cultural and scientific agreement to strengthen the ties of friendship between the two countries. Colombian Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas and Polish Ambassador Edward Wychowaniec signed the agreement at a ceremony in the Foreign Ministry. According to the agreement, the two countries will support and develop cooperation in the areas of culture, science, arts, education, movies, sports, physical education, and mass communications media. They will also protect copyrights on literary and artistic works as per international associations to which they belong, and according to each country's laws. Cultural, scientific, and artistic material exchanged between the two countries for noncommercial purposes will be exempt of any duty. The agreement will be implemented through the respective agencies and will include the exchange of scholarships, the exchange of professionals to participate in scientific institutions and colleges and the exchange of scientific, literary, and artistic publications. [Text] [PA151609 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1949 GMT 14 Mar 81]

BOMBING ATTEMPT FAILS--Bucaramanga, Colombia, 14 Mar (AFP)--A powerful bomb placed on the second floor of the Colombian-American Center here was defused by the building's guard, the police has reported. The bomb was placed by two presumed guerrillas of the Castroite National Liberation Army (ELN), who fled when they were surprised by the guard, it was added. Police said that if the bomb had exploded it would have destroyed the building. Police added that a preliminary investigation has revealed that the guerrillas had also planned to kidnap several U.S. teachers who work at the educational center. In a clandestine communique the ELN took credit for the unsuccessful bombing attempt. [Text] [PA150350 Paris AFP in Spanish 0254 GMT 15 Mar 81]

FIRMES CRITICIZES U.S.--Bogota--FIRMES, a national opposition movement headed by Gerardo Molina, seriously criticized the U.S. intervention in El Salvador. In a communique published today, this leftist political organization stressed that the struggle of the Salvadoran people to get rid of the military yoke and rescue the democratic principles must be autonomous, so the United States should not interfere in this matter. Intervention makes the situation worse and threatens world peace, FIRMES emphasized. [Text] [PA161527 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Mar 81]

WEAPONS FROM ABROAD--Colombian authorities have stated that the Colombian guerrillas are reportedly receiving weapons from Brazil, Cuba and Israel. The National Defense Ministry reported that the weapons seized in the Putumayo area several days ago included 210 grenades made in Brazil. Defense Ministry spokesmen noted that the other weapons apparently came from Cuba and did not discard the possibility that Israel was also sending weapons to the guerrillas in Colombia. A few hours after guerrillas seized Mocoa last week, the government disclosed that it had been fully established that the Colombian guerrillas were receiving weapons from abroad. Later, it was reported that part of the weapons seized were in fact made in and sent from Brazil. Now the authorities have confirmed that the guerrillas are receiving weapons from Brazil, Cuba and Israel. [Text] [PA161707 Bogota Radio Sutatenza Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Mar 81]

ANTIAIRCRAFT GUNS--Bogota, 16 Mar (AFP)--The influential newspaper EL TIEMPO today reported that the Colombian guerrillas have improved their technical capabilities so much that they have 40-mm antiaircraft guns. The newspaper disclosed that the extremist 19 April Movement (M-19) used that deadly weapon in its attack on the southern city of Mocoa, capital of Putumayo, last week. During the attack on Mocoa, the M-19 killed four people, including a 4-year-old boy, and then fled to the jungle. EL TIEMPO said that according to witnesses to the attack, the M-19 has a large number of mortars, bazookas and grenades obtained from abroad. "The military authorities said that among the subversives there are instructors, possibly from Poland, the Soviet Union or Great Britain," the newspaper stated. Meanwhile, the same newspaper said that its reporters have learned that the authorities of Ecuador, which borders on Mocoa, arrested 10 alleged members of the M-19 on Sunday. The capture, EL TIEMPO said, occurred in Esmeraldas, a Pacific ocean port. It also reported that the Colombian Government has already asked the Ecuadorean Foreign Ministry for the extradition of the guerrillas. [Text] [PA161708 Paris AFP in Spanish 1557 GMT 16 Mar 81]

GUERRILLAS CAPTURED--Tumaco--Thirty-nine persons, allegedly members of the 19 April Movement (M-19), are being detained in Tumaco, Narino department. Colombian army troops left for Tumaco to learn of the situation and to implement an intensive operation to maintain law and order in that region, which has seen bitter fighting between army troops and M-19 groups. Several lawyers, defenders of alleged M-19 members, went to Tumaco today to learn the legal status of some of the prisoners. It was learned in Tumaco that at least 39 guerrillas, including several women, were captured following armed clashes. Members of Amnesty International also accompanied the lawyers to Tumaco. The Amnesty International members are in Bogota attending the court-martial of M-19 members. Military authorities denied the arrest of Rosenberg Pabon-Pabon--commander uno--and Carlos Toledo Plata, leaders of the M-19 extremist group. These guerrilla leaders were not among the guerrilla groups which have been active in recent weeks. The arrest of Pabon-Pabon and Toledo Plata was disclosed today at noon by military spokesmen. It was reported from Pasto that Colombian guerrillas had clashed with Ecuadorean troops and that there were casualties. Military spokesmen said that at least 17 extremists, allegedly members of the M-19, had been killed fighting in Ecuadorean territory. [Text] [PA180356 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Mar 81]

CSO: 3010

REAGAN'S INTERVENTIONIST POLICIES DOOMED TO FAILURE

PA131451 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 QFT 13 Mar 81

["World Events" commentary]

[Text] Recently, President Ronald Reagan decorated a group of veterans who fought in Vietnam during the war of aggression the United States carried out against that Indochinese country for 12 years.

The U.S. President, the main actor in the ceremony, regretted that the veterans of that conflict have been forgotten for such a long time. In his speech during the ceremony held in the Pentagon, Reagan said that the U.S. soldiers returned home from Vietnam without a victory not because they were defeated, but because they had been denied permission to win. He said that the time has arrived to show appreciation for those he characterized as heroic fighters at the service of a noble cause.

Reagan has been an ardent defender of U.S. intervention in Southeast Asia since his years as a governor. He was notorious for his support for the war of extermination against the Vietnamese. Therefore, it is not strange now that he is trying to stimulate the injured U.S. pride and to praise alleged U.S. military feats in Vietnam with ceremonies such as this.

It must be taken into consideration that the present U.S. Government is promoting the arms race and the idea of U.S. military superiority as the only solution for the safeguarding of peace in the world. Reagan has just sent to Congress a proposal calling for a \$32.6 billion increase in the already bulky U.S. military budget for the 1981 and 1982 fiscal years. With this, the total military budget for next year would be almost \$223 billion. What a way the U.S. imperialists have of safeguarding peace; they increase war expenditures at the expense of hundreds of domestic programs, thus aggravating the situation of millions of U.S. citizens right now burdened by inflation, unemployment and the other consequences of the economic crisis. The imperialists are increasing their support for the most reactionary regimes and intimidating and meddling in, free and sovereign states everywhere in the world.

According to Pentagon sources, part of the proposed budget increase will be used to purchase equipment for the so-called rapid deployment force, to expand the U.S.

atomic air and naval complex on the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, and to fortify other military bases in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

In the past few months, the U.S. Government has increased its aid to the fascist Chilean regime and to the military-Christian democratic junta that massacres the Salvadoran people. The U.S. Government has increased its military pressure on Nicaragua. The United States is presently maintaining scores of military advisers in El Salvador and is carrying out maneuvers aimed at a direct intervention in that Central American country.

Such preparations have resulted in general rejection from most of the governments and from all the people of the world, including the U.S. people. Despite all this, it is not strange that Reagan would resort to anachronic acts of exaggerated patriotism to create in the United States the conditions for his expansionist and meddling objectives, just as in yesteryears Sam Houston, William Walker and Buffalo Bill served the imperialist goals.

The times, however, have changed. The defeat that Vietnam inflicted on the Yankee aggressors represents a warning that any war adventure of the imperialists is already condemned to a total failure.

CSO: 3010

U.S. POLICY TOWARD SALVADORAN REFUGEES DEPLORED

PA121332 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 11 Mar 81

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] The United States, century-old enemy of the peoples of our America, has recently lashed out against the heroic Salvadoran people whom it is trying by all means to deprive of their right to self-determination. Washington has also become an open accomplice of the genocide in that Central American country. The bloodthirsty Salvadoran regime is staying in power only through growing military aid by the United States which is also providing that fascist clique with profuse economic and political support.

Washington totally despises the clamor of vast sectors in the international community which want the U.S. Government to stop interfering in the domestic affairs of the Salvadoran people and an immediate halt to the supply of weapons to a regime which, in just 14 months, has killed more than 15,000 people. The whole world, including the very heart of U.S. society, is rejecting the White House argument that its military assistance to the Salvadoran governing junta is indispensable so that the regime can ward off an alleged aggression from abroad in which Washington sees several nations from four continents involved.

Even the NEW YORK TIMES has rejected the justifications that the United States is trying to make for its ever growing intervention in the domestic conflict in El Salvador. Everyone knows, the U.S. paper recently reported, that the revolutionary movement has not been brought to El Salvador from abroad but that it is a response by that nation to a century of exploitation and intense terrorism practiced as a state policy.

With its multifaceted support for the military-Christian democratic junta, the U.S. Government has taken on direct responsibility for the mass murders committed by that regime. The U.S. Government is also guilty of the killing of many Salvadorans, who have been deported to their country, even with the knowledge that their return would entail their death.

As the Mexican newspaper UNO MAS UNO reported in the past few days, many of the Salvadorans deported from the United States are killed immediately after their arrival in San Salvador and in the very vicinity of the international airport there. Such

was the lot last December of 40 Salvadorans forced to return from the United States. The same thing happened last January to teachers Rigoberto Molina and Jorge Lemos. These are the known cases but it is certain that a similar thing has happened to a considerable part of the 12,000 Salvadoran refugees deported by the U.S. Government.

Prof (Blaise von Paine), a sociologist and expert in Latin Americans affairs at the University of California, has voiced his conviction that between 5 and 10 percent of the Salvadorans forced to return home have been killed by the repressive corps of the military-Christian democratic junta. The U.S. State Department has also turned down the requests made by the Council of Churches, the Episcopal Conference and other U.S. organizations concerned with human rights so that the criminal deportations will stop and the undocumented Salvadorans will be given the status of transient political refugees.

However, it is useless to ask such a thing of Washington because imperialism has favored and protected immigrants only when this has suited its economic interests or its propaganda against the Cuban revolution and the international socialist system. There is no humanitarianism in the U.S. policy toward immigrants. This is being confirmed now by the cases of thousands of Haitians and Salvadorans whom the government, that has claimed to be the champion of freedom, is sending away to terror and death.

CSO: 3010

CASTILLO TERMS VISIT TO CUBA 'VERY POSITIVE'

FL131852 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Interview with Nicaraguan Attorney General Ernesto Castillo by unidentified Havana television news report at Jose Marti airport on 13 March--recorded]

[Text] [Question] I should like to ask you a few questions for our newscast. What is your assessment of your stay here in our country?

[Answer] Well, as very positive although we had known the Cuban process quite closely. We have been tied by many ties of friendship. We also have been united by our aspirations for freedom, and my visit has been very positive because I had the opportunity to talk with the comrades of the Ministry of Justice and with the country's judicial authorities. It has been a very positive experience.

[Question] Do you believe it has been valuable for the work you are doing in your country?

[Answer] Yes, extremely valuable because the comrades have received us and have taught us the process you have experienced since the triumph of the revolution to date, of course, with much more development in the judicial field than we have had. This is quite valuable for our country because we intend to take advantage of these experiences.

[Question] You visited various places here in our country?

[Answer] Yes. Primarily the organizations related to the judicial branch--the Supreme Court, the attorney general's office, the Ministry of Justice--where we discussed a cooperation and assistance program on the part of the Cuban Government toward the Republic of Nicaragua.

[Question] Would you like to convey a greeting to the Cuban people before you leave us?

[Answer] Only to say to the fraternal Cuban people that we Nicaraguans feel very happy to be increasingly expanding our ties of friendship with the Cuban people. We have maintained these ties since the triumph of the Cuban revolution with the exception that at this time we can do so in Havana. Such contact was more difficult in the past.

[Question] Well, it only remains for us to thank Ernesto Castillo for his words for national television news.

CSO: 3010

MEXICAN NAVY SECRETARY'S VISIT INDICATES CORDIAL TIES

PA060408 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 5 Mar 81

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] Last Monday, Mexican Navy Secretary Adm Ricardo Chazaro Lara, began an official 5-day visit to Cuba, thereby accepting an invitation tendered by Gen Raul Castro, first vice president of the Council of State and Ministers and head of the Revolutionary Armed Forces.

On the day of his arrival the admiral was decorated by Raul Castro with the commemoration medal for the 20th anniversary of the Cuban Revolutionary Armed Forces. During the solemn ceremony at the Palace of the Revolution in Havana, the chief of the Cuban Revolutionary Navy, Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria said that the visit by the Mexican Navy secretary is a new evidence of the traditional ties of friendship between Cuba and Mexico which no historical event ever affected. The Cuban vice admiral recalled that Mexico was the only Latin American nation, which, expressing its absolute sovereignty, did not add its power and prestige to the criminal attempt to isolate Cuba, blockade its trade and reverse the course of the political process chosen by the Cuban people. We are sure, he said, that during the present Latin American situation, Mexico will maintain its attitude because it will not surrender to the arrogant and imperial posturing of those who pretend to act as if the world had not changed.

This decoration, extremely respected and loved by the Cuban people, when placed on your chest, will honor us and become enhanced, Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria Cuadrado said.

Mexican Navy Secretary Adm Ricardo Chazaro said that the presentation of the medal makes once again evident the brotherly love between the armed land, air and sea forces of Mexico and Cuba.

I receive this decoration as a great honor for the organization I represent, he said. Its name, 20th anniversary of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Cuba, expresses the product of the Cuban's deepfelt nationalism by means of its revolutionary struggle to consolidate itself as an independent and proudly sovereign people.

He added that Cuba and Mexico have the same heart, America, and an irreversible stance in the struggle for freedom and sovereignty. In this struggle, he concluded, the armed forces and the people have shown the world that, when necessary, and regardless of the strength of the opponent, they are capable of defending what belongs to them.

The visit of the Mexican Navy secretary is part of the close and traditional ties of friendship which have historically marked relations between the two countries and which intensified during the visit to Mexico of the top Cuban leader, Fidel Castro, in 1979 and during the visit to Cuba by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo last year.

As GRANMA said during the historic visit of the Mexican president to our country, the gallant independent attitude of the Mexican people and government have and will always have the full solidarity of the Cuban people and revolutionary government, of all the peoples of America and the Caribbean, and of all the Latin American peoples.

CSO: 3010

CTC REPORT STRESSES UNITY OF PEOPLE, PARTY, FIDEL

FL132003 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1919 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Text] In his main report to the 42d National Council of the Confederation of Cuban Trade Unions [CTC], Roberto Veiga, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary general of the CTC, referred to the events of 13 March. Veiga said that with the same selflessness and patriotism with which 24 years ago a group of heroes and martyrs attacked the presidential palace and seized Radio RELOJ, the trade union movement will undertake the tasks demanded for by our revolutionary obligations. The invaluable example of the 13 March combatants, he added, is powerful encouragement for us. We will always remember their example with real pride and deep gratitude.

Veiga urged renewed vigor in fulfilling all tasks in the production, service and defense fronts.

Elsewhere in his report to the National Council, Veiga underscored that this 1 May will be the most grandiose one in our history. We will observe the international workers day under the beautiful slogan of 1 May: in combative march for production and defense. On that day the people of Havana will march combatively past Revolution Square. This year, he said, workers will march together with the people escorted by 19 regiments of territorial militias headed by Fidel and other party leaders. Veiga added that similar parades will be held in the rest of the provinces. These parades, he said, will be another demonstration of the indestructible unity of our people with the party and Fidel.

Another part of the report stressed that no imperialist swipe will make us give ground. This revolution is ours, of the workers, and we will defend it to the last drop of blood. We have forever eradicated exploitation and no one will again impose it on us. The results of our work will never go to increasing the profits of any capitalist, the document notes.

The main report stresses that the trade union movement has to date donated more than 5 million pesos to the territorial militias, which 1,891,072 workers from all over the country have joined.

CSO: 3010

PEASANT LEADER EMPHASIZES COOPERATIVES MOVEMENT

FL141520 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Jose Ramirez Cruz, alternate member of the party Politburo and president of the National Association of Small Farmers (ANAP), has granted an interview for this newscast. In the interview with our reporter, Ramirez Cruz referred to the recently held Ninth ANAP Plenum, saying that the evaluation made of the work of peasants and of the ANAP in 1980 was positive in the ideological, organizational, cultural, production and defense areas.

[Begin recording] We are planning big increases in production for 1981 and, of course, placing emphasis on the two fundamental themes set forth by our party--production and defense. In other words, more production is another way of fighting the enemy and of satisfying the needs of our people. For this reason, an analysis was made to fulfill the peasant sector's production and harvesting plans in all the areas of production and place emphasis on the sugar harvest to have an efficient harvest. In addition to the sugar harvest, there is a very big goal--the planting of sugarcane by the peasant sector. Moreover, a serious evaluation was made of the work with cooperatives we have done to date and of the prospects of this movement toward superior production methods. We ended 1980 with 1,053 agricultural-livestock production cooperatives having 6,259 caballerias of land and 30,048 members. These include 9,839 women representing 32.7 percent in the cooperatives movement. [end recording]

The ANAP president went on to emphasize that the peasants are enthusiastic about the growing results of the cooperatives movement. He explained that construction of housing has begun for members of cooperatives with a plan for 10,000 housing units in small towns.

[Begin recording] Soon, on 17 May, we will celebrate the 20th ANAP anniversary, 22d of the agrarian revolution and 35th of the murder of peasant Niceto Perez. We believe that by that date we will have made considerable progress on production. The sugar harvest, sugarcane planting, and [sugarcane] collection and preprocessing. The tobacco harvest is going very well. And we will have done great work to greet that date. The main commemoration will be held in Caujeri, Guantanamo Province, on 17 May. In addition, we are preparing to hold the Sixth ANAP Congress on 17 May 1982. We believe that our main task at this time is the cooperatives movement.

Following the principle of respect for its voluntary nature, we want to have at least 25,000 caballerias of land in the cooperatives movement this year. In addition, we have entered into a second phase. We form cooperatives of 5, 10 and 15 caballerias, but when we have several cooperatives, we then go for joining such cooperatives. This is the second phase and we are making very positive progress on this.

OVERVIEW OF 5-YEAR FISHING FLEET, CATCH REPORTED

Havana GRANMA WEEKLY REVIEW in English 15 Feb 81 supplement pp 2-5

[Text] 'We are going to start a fishing development program in order to obtain a catch of hundreds of millions of pounds. But where? We're going to fish in the ocean; we're going to leave the coast shelf and fish on the high seas. In order to do this, we need to forge a new generation of fishermen.'

Fidel Castro
(May 30, 1962)

THE first figures on the catch for 1980 show a total of 186 402.5 tons, for an overall total of 932 687.3 tons in the 1976-80 period. A look at the figures corresponding to each of the 22 years since the triumph of the Revolution will show a total of 2 252 804.1 tons, a remarkable achievement for a country whose overall catch in 1958 — the last year of the dictatorship and the end of the period of the pseudorepublic — was only 21 900 tons.

There's another interesting detail: the figures for the five-year period that has just ended represent 44.4 percent of the overall catch for the last 22 years, and this is also another remarkable feat in the history of Cuba's economy. To further illustrate the notable progress made by the fishing sector we would like to point out that the landing of fish alone in 1980 — 143 324 tons — surpassed the overall catch of all marine products in the ten years that preceded the triumph of the Revolution (1949-1958). The figure was a meager 132 700 tons.

As Fidel pointed out in his Main Report to the 2nd Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba — an excerpt of which serves as the introduction to this article — the figures for the 1976-80 period surpassed those of the preceding five-year period by 29 percent (see table on this page). These results can no doubt be considered satisfactory, given the periods when certain commercial species in the various fishing grounds were limited, the restrictions resulting from the establishment of the 200-mile jurisdictional-zones limit, other regulations set by

various countries and the annulment of fishing agreements, all of which had an adverse effect on the operations of Cuba's high seas fishing fleets.

These fleets, plus the so-called intermediate fleets and the Coastal Shelf Fleet are composed of over 2000 vessels — 76 of them of large size — manned by some 16 000 fishermen and supported by 20 000 workers at the many land bases (see map of Cuban archipelago on center pages).

The nationwide distribution of marine products in the last five years ran to half a million tons (the figures given above refer to gross catch). For distribution purposes, the Ministry of the Fishing Industry has cold storage warehouses throughout the country, distribution centers and a network of modern fish markets, plus a fleet of 215 trailer trucks and refrigerator trucks that reach the most remote places, including those in the mountain areas. Marine products are an important source of proteins for the Cuban people, who consume them at home, in hotels and restaurants, in the dining rooms of work places, in the 255 hospitals distributed throughout the country, day-care centers, schools, old people's homes, etc.

Before the triumph of the Revolution the yearly per capita consumption of marine products was only four kilograms and was practically limited to the residents of the capital, the residents of some provincial capitals and the population of the small fishing villages on the island's coast. Today, it has become a generalized food,

CUBA: FISHING PRODUCTION (GROSS CATCH IN TONS)

PERIOD	TOTAL	FISH	CRUSTACEANS	OTHER (1)
1959-1960 (2 years)	59 400.0	36 800.0	18 900.0	3 700.0
1961-1965 (5 years)	177 688.0	114 139.0	50 849.3	12 699.7
1966-1970 (5 years)	358 409.8	271 993.2	65 183.7	21 232.9
1971-1975 (5 years)	724 619.0	603 261.6	94 768.8	26 588.6
1976-1980 (5 years) (2)	932 687.3	772 889.3	96 541.5	63 256.5

(1) Mollusks, frogs and other amphibians, chelonians and sponges.

(2) The figures corresponding to 1980 and used to obtain the total for the five-year period are, of course, estimated on the basis of an actual catch of 186 402.5 tons for that year.

and the yearly per capita figure has risen to over ten kilograms in the last five years.

The 19th-century expression describing Cuba as "A gentle Indian asleep on the sea" reflects to a certain extent the situation inherited by the Revolution and which led Fidel to say in June 1963: "We are an island; we cannot live with our backs turned to the sea; we must face the sea, go into it and create this kind of awareness among our young people..."

In effect, marine production in prerevolutionary Cuba played a ridiculously small role in the country's economy, despite the fact that Cuba includes over 1600 cays and islets, has a coastline that extends for 3500 kilometers and is located quite close to the Atlantic's richest fishing grounds. In their efforts to promote investments in Cuba and further increase Cuba's dependency on Wall Street, the U.S. capitalists sent the so-called Truslow Mission to Cuba in August 1950. In their extensive report, the members of the Mission synthesized the situation of the Cuban fishing industry in this significant paragraph in Chapter 47, Book 10:

"Despite Cuba's favorable geographic location, its fishing industry is small and disorganized. The commercial value of its annual catch is only about \$4,000,000 a year. Yet Cuba, near some of the major fishing grounds of the world, must import approximately \$5,000,000 worth of fish products each year. It is clear that, although fishing enterprises are of considerable importance to the economy of Cuba, they have not been developed to an adequate extent."

Note the glaring contrast between that situation and the investments made by the Revolution in the fishing sector between 1976 and 1980: over 600 million pesos, including the addition of several large, late-type super-trawlers and refrigerator ships and a tanker for the high seas fleet.

In the last 20 years, in order to ensure a steady supply of skilled personnel for our fishing fleets, three specialized schools have graduated over 8000 young people as pilots, engineers, electromechanics, electro-radio-navigators, intermediate-level technicians, skilled workers, offshore ship masters and first-class engine room operators. The determined, courageous attitude of these young people trained by the Revolution has made possible the achievements in this sector that our people are proud of.

It is impossible to speak of investments in the fishing industry without drawing attention to one of the industry's major accomplishments: naval construction. At the time of the triumph of the Revolution, there wasn't a single shipyard in Cuba. There were only half a dozen dry docks in the whole island, which were used for repairs. The Ministry of the Fishing Industry wound the last five-year period with eight shipyards distributed throughout the island and an impressive balance sheet: over 10 700 boats built in the last 20 years, 1900 of them over 10 meters long (see table on page 4). Of these bigger boats, 172 are built of steel, 940 of ferrocement, 780 of wood and eight of plastic. Construction of wooden vessels ended in 1972 to make way for ferrocement, a much more economical and advantageous material. Great progress has been made in the construction of this type of vessel prior to 1965 when the first

Freshwater fish production

● IN HIS Main Report to the 2nd Congress of the Communist Party of Cuba, Fidel said in connection with the guidelines for the 1981-83 period: "In the fishing industry, gross catch is expected to grow by ten percent a year, and aquaculture will be given a boost by creating ten fingerling-breeding centers and more than 20 hatcheries."

The National Aquiculture enterprise of the Ministry of the Fishing Industry has seven administrative units, 23 production centers and 1100 workers.

The enterprise is now raising fish in 92 of the 600 reservoirs built throughout the island to contribute to the development of agricultural projects.

The haul in freshwater fish has shown a steady increase in the last five years as follows: in 1976, 1200 tons; in 1977, 2400; in 1978, 3200; in 1979, 4400; and in 1980, 5900. Of these figures, 90 percent correspond to tilapia and the rest to trout, white amara, native carp and European carp. The breeding of the last two species, whose food con-

sists strictly of plants, is still being developed, for their reproduction calls for a large number of hatcheries suitable for the development of the fingerlings.

The first of the ten breeding centers planned for the 1981-83 period is now under construction in Villa Clara province and will be finished this year. It will have a production capacity of 3 000 000 fingerlings a year, each of an average weight of 20 grams.

The program for the haul of freshwater fish envisions a total of 7000 tons for 1981, which represents a 19-percent increase over the preceding year. In general, the weight of the species caught for commercial purposes ranges between 1.5 and 3 kilograms.

The National Aquiculture enterprise has its own scientific and technical research department which contributes to the development of freshwater fish breeding in our country.

CUBA AND ITS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IN FISHING

● DURING ALL these years of struggle and constant work, together with overall development of the fishing industry, our country has undertaken many activities with different international fishing organizations, thereby joining its efforts to the multilateral administration of fishing resources that are exploited internationally (especially those in the area close to Cuba) in order to ensure our participation in the exploitation of these resources.

Cuba is a member of the following international commissions:

- International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries
- Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission
- Fishery Committee for the Eastern-Central Atlantic

- International Commission for the Southeast Atlantic Fisheries
- Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
- International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna
- Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission

Our work in these international commissions has taken the form of scientific papers aimed at contributing to the rational exploitation of fishing resources subject to international exploitation, the participation of our technicians and administrators in the adoption of the required forms of regulating and controlling fishing and negotiations on quotas and fishing conditions in line with the needs of our fishing fleet.

Cuba has negotiated and signed several bilateral fishing agreements which give our fleet access to resources under the jurisdiction of other states.

We should also stress the importance our government attaches to cooperation with underdeveloped countries in the field of fishing. For this purpose, our country has bilateral ties with 20 countries which it is helping in the development of their fishing industries.

In addition to this, Cuba is now the coordinating country for cooperation in fishing among the non-aligned countries, and in connection with this, two meetings have already been held and a third at the ministerial level will be held in Havana, this year.

SHIPS BUILT IN CUBAN SHIPYARDS BETWEEN 1960 AND 1979

	TOTAL	1960-64	1965-69	1970-74	1975-79
TOTAL	10 763	913	1549	3261	5440
STEEL	231	—	10	117	104
FERROCEMENT	941	—	—	281	660
PLASTIC	9405	—	—	1231	4674
WOOD	3686	913	1539	1632	2
Over 10 meters long	1980	393	321	412	774
Steel	172	—	8	60	104
Ferrocement	940	—	—	280	660
Plastic	8	—	—	—	8
Wood	760	393	313	72	2
Under 10 meters long	8883	120	1228	2849	4666
Steel	59	—	2	57	—
Ferrocement	1	—	—	1	—
Plastic	8897	—	—	1231	4666
Wood	2986	120	1226	1560	—

steel-hulled vessel, 46 meters long, was built in Cuba. A look at the figures for 1975-1979, when 5440 ships were built in Cuban shipyards, reveals the boost given to this branch of the Cuban economy, considering that between 1960 and 1974 the number ran to 5323. However, the topic of naval construction in Cuba would call for considerably more space than we have for this supplement.

Another record worthy of being taken into account was that the value of the marine products exported by Cuba in the last five years amounted to over 400 million pesos, which represented a considerable income in foreign exchange for the Cuban economy.

Speaking of records, we would like to point out that the catch for 1978 was 213 171.8 tons, the highest figure in our history. That same year, according to the *Fisheries Statistics Yearbook* published by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Cuba rose to the 43rd place in world catch (in 1958 it was 68th) among over 160 countries, and held on to the 7th place among the Latin American countries.

This, in a nutshell, is the picture for the last five years in the Cuban fishing industry. A favorable picture, no doubt, although it will be necessary to work even harder, with greater determination and efficiency, to improve the economic side of the industry, particularly in regard to the income-yield capacity of fishing operations, in the five-year period that has just begun.

CUBA: VALUE OF MARINE EXPORTS IN THE LAST 15 YEARS

(in thousands of pesos)

PERIOD	VALUE
1966-1970	51 349.4
1971-1975	184 144.4
1976-1980	400 000.0 (1)

(1) Value of exports in 1976 was 65 296 500 pesos; in 1977 it was 66 853 000 pesos; and in 1978 it rose to 85 070 600 pesos. The total figure for 1979 and 1980 combined is estimated at 182 800 000 pesos.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. p 2. The Tuna Fleet's haul in 1980 was estimated at 9,243 tons, thus surpassing the year's production plan by 15 percent. The fleet has 22 long-line ships, one purse seiner, two refrigerator transfer ships and two oil tankers. Tunafish is one of Cuba's most valuable exports in this sector of the economy.
2. p 2. The Havana Fishing Terminal covers an area of 13.5 hectares and has over 1,000 meters of dock space for loading, unloading, supplying and repairing fishing boats of all types. It's many facilities and technology include cold storage warehouses, gantry cranes, floating dry docks, an ice plant, machine shops, warehouses. The terminal has been one of the pillars of the all-around development of the Cuban fishing industry. It is considered one of the biggest and most modern in Latin America and was built with the help of the Soviet Union.
3. p 3. In 1980 the Coastal Shelf Fleet caught one third of the fish caught by the 2,000 boats in the Cuban Fishing Fleet. Furthermore, it continues to catch all the lobster earmarked for export, a large amount of shrimp and other species of high market value such as bonito and chelonians.
4. p 3. The most complex and most expensive aspect of processing marine products is the industry's land facilities, which include several plants for freezing and canning and a number of fishmeal and ice plants.
5. p 5. For the last ten years, ferrocement has been in the lead in naval construction in Cuba with a production of 900 boats measuring over ten meters.

CSO:

BRIEFS

CUBA, POLAND COOPERATION AGREEMENT--Acting Foreign Minister Jose Fernandez Cossio and Polish Ambassador to Cuba Ryszard Majchrzak today signed a cultural, educational and scientific cooperation agreement between the two countries for the 1981-85 period. The signing ceremony was held at the Cuban Foreign Ministry. The Polish delegation led by Stefan Staniszewski, director of press, cultural and scientific cooperation of the Polish Foreign Ministry attended the ceremony. On the occasion of the signing ceremony and of the presence of the Polish delegation in Cuba, the ambassador of the fraternal country last night hosted a friendly meeting at the embassy. During their stay in Havana, Stefan Staniszewski and his delegation visited artistic centers, educational and cultural organizations and places of historic interest. [Text] [FL172346 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2332 GMT 17 Mar 81]

CUBAN, GDR EDUCATIONAL COOPERATION--Greater expansion of educational cooperation between Cuba and the GDR has been examined by Jose Ramon Fernandez, member of the Communist Party of Cuba Central Committee and minister of education, and Hans-Joachim Boehme, GDR ministry of university and technical schools affairs. The GDR education delegation that is visiting our country yesterday also visited the Jose Antonio Echevarria Higher Polytechnical Institute where it was received by Eng Rodolfo Alarcon Ruiz, rector of the institute. [Text] [FL101524 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 10 Mar 81] The work plan signed between the GDR Ministry of University and Technical School Matters and the Cuban minister of higher education is essentially geared to making qualitative advances. This was stated at a press conference following the signing of the agreement, by Hans-Joachim Boehme, GDR minister of university and technical school matters. He also gave details of the agreement, which covers the current 5-year period. Boehme, who is also a member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee, said that the agreement is an extension of the cooperation practiced by the two countries with one another. For this reason, Boehme said, it is normal to see Cuban students in the GDR and GDR students in Cuba. [Text] [FL131813 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1740 GMT 13 Mar 81]

CUBAN-GDR EDUCATION ACCORD--The signing of a 1981-85 work plan between the Cuban and GDR education ministries has taken place at the Palace of Conventions in Havana. The document was signed by Eng Fernando Vecino Alegret, member of the party Central Committee and minister of higher education, and Prof Hans-Joachim Boehme, member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany and minister of university and technical school matters. Vecino Alegret said this step continues the work of the preceding 5-year period in the higher education field. He added that cooperation with the fraternal country has been advantageous to our country. Jose R.

Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, Rosa Elena Simeon Negrin--both members of the party Central Committee--and other vice ministers of higher education attended the ceremony. After the signing ceremony, Hans-Joachim Boehme held a press conference in which he expressed gratitude for the welcome that the Cuban people gave his delegation. [Text] [FL131912 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 13 Mar 81]

U.S. MILITARY AID--The U.S. Government confirmed tonight that it will increase its military aid to countries it considers strategically important to its interests. It also announced that it will reduce U.S. contributions to foreign programs such as the International Development Agency, a branch of the World Bank. The countries that will receive military aid are a select group, including Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Turkey and the Christian Democratic junta of El Salvador. President Reagan will also ask for an additional \$66 million in economic and military aid for the Salvadoran regime. This credit will help the junta to buy sophisticated arms and train its elite forces. [Text] [FL110153 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Mar 81]

UPCOMING U.S. MILITARY MANEUVERS--The Pentagon high command has announced that solid shield 81 maneuvers will be held in the Atlantic Ocean 1-21 May in which approximately 27,000 troops--including marine infantry and airborne landing troops--will participate. Although Pentagon spokesmen claim that the maneuvers are not related to the U.S. intervention in El Salvador, the area of operations include the Caribbean Sea and Central American region. [Text] [FL17206 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2005 GMT 17 Mar 81]

MINREX WORKERS' ACCOMPLISHMENTS PRAISED--Ricardo Alarcon, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee and interim foreign minister, has hailed last year's efforts of the Foreign Relations Ministry--MINREX--workers and has urged them to raise the level of quality and to maintain the same combative spirit. During an annual plenum held in the Foreign Ministry, Alarcon recognized that in 1980 the workers in the ministry had been equal to the numerous challenges they had to face with savings in resources and personnel. Referring to the complex mission of the ministry, Alarcon noted that the workers had faced up to with competence and resolve the diverse tasks which had to be carried out for the successful holding of the Sixth Nonaligned Countries Summit Conference in this capital. He added that Cuba, a small country to which history has assigned gigantic missions, had assumed the presidency of the nonaligned countries movement in 1979 and, in fulfilling that task, it had the determined cooperation of the MINREX workers. [Text] [FL101316 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1228 GMT 10 Mar 81]

SOTO SPEAKS AT ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION--Today the people are a militant group, thousands of Cubans are joining the territorial militia and the students are ready for anything with the revolutionary spirit they learned from the fighters led by Jose Antonio Echeverria. Party secretariat member Lionel Soto made this statement in his closing speech at the main commemoration of the 24th anniversary of the actions of 13 March 1957 [assault on Radio RELOJ and presidential palace]. The ceremony was held on the steps of Havana University. Soto recalled the hard years experienced by the university martyrs and their struggles. Students and workers throughout the country yesterday paid tribute to Jose Antonio Echeverria for the actions of taking over Radio RELOJ and assault on the presidential palace. A floral wreath from Commander in Chief Fidel Castro was laid at the tomb of the university leader. [Excerpt] [FL141312 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 14 Mar 81]

CUBAN, CYPRIOT COOPERATION ACCORD--A cultural, scientific and educational cooperation agreement has been signed in Nicosia between our country and Cyprus. It was signed by foreign ministers Isidoro Malmierca and Nikolaos Rolandhis. [Text] [FL131713 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1704 GMT 13 Mar 81]

CASTRO GREETINGS TO GHANA--The president of the Councils of State and Ministers, Fidel Castro, has sent a message of congratulations to the Ghanaian chief of state, Hilla Limann, on Ghana's independence day. Reporting on the message, Accra's radio station said that it notes Cuba's wishes to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two peoples and governments. [Text] [FL140155 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Mar 81]

ANGOLAN ENERGY MINISTER VISIT--Angolan Energy Minister Pedro de Castro van Dunen and his delegation have visited the Maximo Gomez thermoelectric plant and the Rene Arcay cement factory in the Havana Municipality of Mariel accompanied by PCC Politburo member Jorge Risquet. The delegation toured the engine room of the thermoelectric plant which produces 35 percent of Cuba's energy needs, the main control area, the 50- and 100-megawatts generators and the construction works of unit eight. They were also briefed on the building and development of the Maximo Gomez thermoelectric plant to its present 500-megawatts capacity, and what this means for the country's energy production. [Excerpt] [FL181415 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1335 GMT 18 Mar 81]

UNCTAD MEETING SITE--Cuba has accused the United States of trying to prevent the selection of Havana as the site for the Sixth UNCTAD Conference to be held in 1983, and is therefore pressuring some countries to challenge the Cuban offer. The above-mentioned statement was made by Jose Viera, Cuban vice minister of foreign relations, at the 22d meeting of the trade and development board of UNCTAD being held in Geneva, Switzerland. Viera said that the United States is trying to use its veto right to block the decisions of that international organization and to choose the site of the sixth conference according to the imperialist interests of Washington. Previously, the delegates were surprised to learn that the U.S. delegation admitted it was maneuvering to change the site of the meeting to another country and confirmed that if the trade and development board decides to hold the Sixth UNCTAD Conference in Havana, the United States will not attend. The representatives of Algeria, Ethiopia, Syria, Mongolia and Czechoslovakia then voiced their support for Cuba as the host country of the conference and emphasized that the U.S. attitude is unheard of in the history of that economic organization. [Text] [PA172359 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Mar 81]

CSO: 3010

PRINCIPLES WILL NOT BE EXCHANGED FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH U.S.

FL140005 Bridgetown CANA in English 0000 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Excerpts] ST George's, Grenada, 13 Mar (CANA)--Grenada today said it wanted good relations with the United States, but not at the expense of its principles.

The message, from Prime Minister Maurice Bishop, was delivered at a rally to mark the second anniversary of a revolution that brought the People's Revolution Government (PRG) to power.

There was no reason why the PRG should want hostile relations with the U.S., Prime Minister Bishop told an open air rally in Queens Park attended by a crowd estimated at 6,000 and officials from more than 20 countries.

"In terms of trade and economic cooperation, we much prefer to have good relations, and we much prefer to live in conditions of complete security and in feelings of no tension and no instability," Mr Bishop added.

It had to be understood, however, that on no account had in no circumstances "will anyone dictate to the PRG that it must trade its principles and change its objectives...", he emphasized.

Mr Bishop said he had a message for persons in Grenada and those abroad who doubted the PRG's motives and suspected that the PRG harbored plans against them.

"We do not want any quarrel with any country in the region. We do not want any quarrel with any bigger country that has developed their own system--once we are allowed to develop our own process," he told the rally.

"We do not have any plans or intentions of interfering in other people's countries and affairs, but equally, we demand from them that they do not interfere in our internal affairs."

Government officials from Cuba and Nicaragua also addressed the rally, part of celebrations being witnessed by the world's first black spaceman, Tamayo Mendez of Cuba.

CSO: 3025

EEC OFFICIALS TELLS COUNTRY TO SPEND AID FUNDS

FL162206 Bridgetown CANA in English 2157 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Kingston, Jamaica 16 Mar (CANA)--Jamaica has shown little imagination in utilizing the benefits available under the Lome Convention. It has also been slow in spending aid funds allocated under the agreement that ties the countries of the European Economic Community (EEC) to 59 developing African, Caribbean and Pacific states.

And among the contributors to this state of affairs is the shortage of talented middle level personnel to get things done.

This assessment came from the EEC's deputy director for development, Maurice Foley, in an interview published by the SUN newspaper here.

Mr Foley was in Kingston last week for the Jamaica meeting of the Caribbean group for cooperation in economic development. But he did not only attend that conference. He also spoke with government officials. His recurring theme: Please spend the money, initiate micro-projects rather than unwieldy big ones.

Under Lome I, which expired at the end of last year, Jamaica was earmarked for 26 billion dollars (U.S.) in assistance from the EEC, and although 83 percent of the money was committed to projects, only 39 percent had actually been spent.

Some 50 million dollars (U.S.) has been allocated to the island under Lome II, which came into force last January, plus benefits to be derived from regional programs as well as technical support packages.

Such unspent money, Mr Foley noted, did not change "anyone's horizons," and neither did it "give anyone a job."

Part of the problem, he said, was due to administration and also to "the lack of imagination as to what it (money) can be used for."

Mr Foley warned the new Edward Seaga government that it could not continue, forever, to blame the former administration for any failure by Jamaica to utilize the Lome guarantees.

Said the official: "You had a bad patch. You've got a new government now--they've won a majority. For a year they can blame the previous lot and then they'll have to start blaming themselves.

"I want, with them, to start seeking how we can use the money that is left over from Lome I and all of this Lome II money, for quick action...to get things moving."

How do other Caribbean countries rate in their utilization of EEC aid.

"It varies, Barbados is superb, Guyana not bad, Trinidad, hopeless. But they don't need money. They don't know what to do with it if you give it to them."

CSO: 3025

'DAILY NEWS' COMMENTS ON IMF AGREEMENT

FL162114 Bridgetown CANA in English 2102 GMT 16 Mar 81

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, 16 Mar (CANA)--The JAMAICA DAILY NEWS today warned that "a repetition of the gruelling 1977-80 years" under the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will not enhance the efforts of the new Jamaica Government of Prime Minister Edward Seaga to improve the lives of the people of this Caribbean island.

The DAILY NEWS statement came in an editorial comment on the imminent agreement between the IMF and Jamaica for balance of payments support for the island's shaky economy, and Saturday's announcement by the fund that it was introducing a new mechanism to replace the supplementary fund facility under which Jamaica and a number of broke countries had received support.

The DAILY NEWS noted that the details of the new system had not been made public, but said that "it must be significant that it has been put in place just before Jamaica's agreement is signed."

"Has Jamaica's position forced the adjustment in the IMF lending practices which Third World countries have been demanding?" the paper asked.

Said the paper: "Already Prime Minister Seaga's assurance that layoffs, devaluation and compulsory cutbacks in government spending will not be included in the package has given rise to speculation as to whether devaluation will be achieved by other means, and whether layoffs now taking place are not pre-conditions for the conclusion of the agreement. Only the prime minister or time can tell.

"We can only hope that this new system announced by the IMF will make the customary harsh burden of the International Monetary Fund lighter for the people of this country. A repetition of the gruelling 1977-80 years under the IMF cannot enhance the efforts by the government to improve the lives of the citizens of this country."

CSO: 3025

PRESIDENT TALKS ABOUT COMING MEETING WITH REAGAN

PA102314 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0427 GMT 10 Mar 81

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Mar (EFE)--Mexican President Jose Lopez-Portillo today reiterated his support of the peoples' right to self-determination and his desire that an "honest effort" be made to solve the present world situation.

Meeting with a group of 20 newswomen, the president said that his country hopes that the Central American and Caribbean countries will achieve a permanent and stable relationship based on the economic order.

Also, he said that the peoples that have earned their sovereignty have the right to self-determination, of choosing their own form of government, of rejecting foreign interference, and of seeking peaceful solutions to their differences.

Lopez-Portillo mentioned that the different ideologies are no threat to Mexico although, he said, this is debatable. However, he admitted that "interventionist inclinations, which can only be countered by force," are a risk.

On his coming meeting with U.S. President Ronald Reagan he said that they will discuss bilateral and multilateral subjects, pointing out that one of the main subjects is the Central American crisis "which is very close to us."

Concerning the bilateral subjects, Lopez-Portillo said that these will include the undocumented Mexican workers, a subject "so complex and so bandied about," that to comprehend its magnitude it has to be studied in depth.

Lopez-Portillo commented that the significance of cheap Mexican labor in the U.S. economy is not really known, and wondered what effects its immediate elimination would have.

Concerning the north-south meeting to be held in Mexico, Lopez-Portillo said that some measures have already been taken, "as much as is possible when one is trying to bring together sovereign countries that have their own political views, interests, ideologies and reciprocal commitments."

This circumstance, he added, complicates matters, because unilateral measures cannot be taken. "Meetings of political good will have to be held, have to be negotiated, and this is exactly what we are doing."

Concerning U.S. participation in the meeting, he admitted that if the U.S. Government did not attend the north-south dialogue, the meeting would not be as important as it is expected to be.

On another subject, President Lopez-Portillo said that diplomatic relations with Argentina are normal and that the only problem that exists is the refugees who are still in the Mexican Embassy in Buenos Aires.

Our position regarding the people in the embassy and our insistence that the principles of Latin American coexistence be complied with have not changed," Lopez-Portillo said. "Aside from this," he continued, "our relations with Argentina are normal."

CSO: 3010

PENA GOMEZ REPORTS ON SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL MEETING

FL102033 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2009 GMT 10 Mar 81

[Text] Mexico City, 10 Mar (NOTIMEX)--The Socialist International considers Mexico a key part in the Latin American and Caribbean political balance, Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, secretary general of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD), has declared here.

Pena Gomez, who is chairman of the Socialist International's committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, has come to Mexico to meet with the president of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), Gustavo Carvajal Moreno, and with the executive secretary of the Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPAL), Alfonso Szegbe.

The prominent Dominican politician met with Carvajal and Szegbe to brief them in detail on the agreements reached at the Socialist International meeting recently held in Panama. The agreements basically call for unrestricted support of the Socialist International for the Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) and propose Willy Brandt's mediation with President Ronald Reagan to seek a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict.

Pena Gomez revealed that in Panama they had the opportunity to meet with two representatives of the general command of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) whom they found to be quite mature, sensible, prudent and with very firm positions.

He said the presence of the FDR and FMLN delegates [presumably at the Socialist International meeting] shows that Salvadoran revolutionaries favor peace, want to stop their people's suffering and that the people have been forced into the armed struggle not by them [the revolutionaries] but by the conditions of injustice and oppression.

Pena Gomez noted that Salvadoran democratic and revolutionary leaders have taken a great step and are refuting with their consistent attitude that they are not extremists and intransigent.

It remains to be seen, he emphasized, what is the sacrifice [as received] of the United States since up to now it continues to send arms and advisors to El Salvador.

CSO: 3010

NORTH-SOUTH CONFERENCE TO MEET HERE

FL131620 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1557 GMT 13 Mar 81

[Article by Enrique Alvarez Manilla]

[Excerpts] Vienna, Austria, 13 Mar (NOTIMEX)--The conference with which the North-South Dialogue is to be resumed will be held in Cancun, Mexico, from 21 to 23 October with the participation of the United States, and the Soviet Union and China will be invited, it was officially announced here today.

Three hours after the foreign ministers' meeting began, Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda and Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky made the official announcement to almost 100 journalists from different parts of the world.

Jorge Castaneda explained that 21 countries will participate in the conference--eight developed nations, 12 developing nations and Yugoslavia.

He indicated that the United States communicated, through Canadian secretary of external affairs Mark MacGuigan, its willingness to attend the conference, having requested a little more time because of the recent change in administration.

Castaneda also reported that a last meeting preparatory to the summit conference will be held in Mexico City in early August with the participation of the 21 foreign ministers.

The Mexican official emphasized that the United States placed no condition on its acceptance to participate in the summit which can be very useful for all countries, be they industrialized or developing countries.

The important topics to be discussed at the summit and the agenda being prepared cover foodstuffs, raw materials, trade and the question of rationalization, production, marketing and consumption of energy sources.

CSO: 3010

BRIEFS

URANIUM MINE--Oaxaca, 9 Mar (EFE)--The largest uranium mine in the country, with reserves estimated at more than 10,000 tons, was discovered near here and exploitation will begin within 2 months, it was announced officially today. Guillermo Vizcaino Murray, director of Mexican Uranium Enterprise (URAMEX), announced that the state enterprise will invest more than \$29 million in the mine. He added that more than \$132 million is being invested in exploration and exploitation throughout the country of this radioactive metal, and that of this amount \$29 million is assigned to Oaxaca state, in the southeastern part of the country. He said Mexico will use uranium from now until the year 2000 to produce 20,000 kw. "This will be 25 percent of the total electricity produced in the country," Vizcaino Murray pointed out. Mexico is trying to find uranium that would put its reserves at 20,000 tons by the end of 1982. However, it is believed that Mexico's proven and potential reserves are much higher than that. The capital of Oaxaca state is Oaxaca, 508 km south of Mexico City. [Text] [PA100207 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2213 GMT 9 Mar 81]

RESIGNATION CONFIRMED--Mexico City, 17 Mar (NOTIMEX)--Gustavo Carvajal Moreno, president of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), today officially announced the resignation of PRI Secretary General Jose de Las Fuentes Rodriguez to become candidate for governor of Coahuila state. Regarding the name of the new secretary general who will be officially named tomorrow when the PRI National Council will be held, he said that so far there are no names. The PRI leader was interviewed briefly minutes after 15,000 members of the National Institute of Public Accountants at the service of the state joined the PRI's popular sector. [Excerpts] [FL180012 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2254 GMT 17 Mar 81]

CSO: 3010

NAARANDORP ANNOUNCES UPCOMING COOPERATION PROJECTS

FL141851 Bridgetown CANA in English 1829 GMT 14 Mar 81

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, 14 Mar (CANA)--The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is interested in participating in a hydro-electric project in the western part of this country, according to the foreign minister of Suriname, Dr Harvey Naarandorp.

Dr Naarandorp told a press conference here the interest was expressed during a conversation with the Trinidad and Tobago Foreign Minister John Donaldson recently in New Delhi.

It was pointed out, however, that the Dr Eric Williams administration needed more technical information, he noted.

Further, the Trinidad and Tobago Government was not in a position to make any commitment at this stage due to pending general elections in the country, the Suriname minister added.

He disclosed that Guyana and Suriname will shortly formulate an agreement on the use of the water in west Suriname for the project. He said the agreement was necessary [words indistinct] World Bank funding for the project. A joint technical team will be named by both sides to formulate the agreement.

Dr Naarandorp also announced that Guyana and Suriname will shortly ratify and sign a wide-ranging cooperation agreement reached in 1979 by deposed Prime Minister Henck Arron and Guyana's President Forbes Burnham in Barbados.

The Suriname minister also discussed the hydro-electric project with the Dutch Government while he was in Holland. He said the Dutch were sympathetic towards the project.

He told newsmen that his visit to New Delhi--to attend the nonaligned foreign ministers meeting--helped him to let a large section of the international community know what was taking place in Suriname, government's aims, hopes and aspirations for the future of his country.

He announced that preliminary discussions were held in New Delhi with the Indian Government for an economic and technical mission to visit Suriname.

About his visit to South Korea, he said it was a successful follow-up to one made to Suriname last December by a delegation from Seoul. In Korea he laid a wreath at the tombs of two Surinamers who died while serving in the American Army during the Korean War.

CSO: 3025

BRIEFS

WARNING TO KEEP PRICES LOW--Paramaribo, Suriname, 13 Mar (CANA)--The Suriname Government has warned the business community here that unless prices are kept to a minimum the administration would be forced to get involved in importing and distribution. The warning came in a statement from presidential spokesman Mr Tjark Petzold, who said the state's Central Import Service (CIS) was fully geared to take on the responsibility of importing and distributing goods to consumers. Mr Petzold said that increases in the cost of living were having a counter-productive effect on the desire by President Henck Chin-a-sen to improve local living standards. He acknowledged that inflation was influencing price rises, but on the other hand, he said that cooperation from the business community could assist in controlling price increases. He said while the government could act to influence the situation, it appeared that certain elements within the business community were making cooperation impossible. He said that government had raised the matter with the Suriname Chamber of Commerce. Mr Petzold warned that should certain sectors of the trading community fail to cooperate then government will proceed to get into the import business. Mr Petzold comments follow closely on demands made here by the organization of Suriname women for the government to keep an eye on the increased cost of living. [Text] [FL131824 Bridgetown CANA in English 1810 GMT 13 Mar 81]

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